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High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

Progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The Secretary-General is transmitting herewith the progress report on the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/203, 68/210 and 69/214. The report builds on the interim report submitted in 2014 by UNEP, as the secretariat of the 10-year framework, to the Economic and Social Council (E/2014/93). The objective of the present report is to share with Member States and stakeholders the activities of the framework and the latest developments, highlighting key outputs, challenges and opportunities. The report is hereby submitted through the Council for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2015.

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I. Background

1. In its resolution 66/288, the General Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in which the Conference adopted the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, reaffirming that shifting towards sustainable consumption and production patterns is one of the overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development.

2. In a world in which the human population is projected to be 9.5 billion by 2050, in which about 1.2 billion people currently live in extreme poverty and deprivation and in which there is a growing middle class of consumers, which is expected to reach 3 billion by 2050, promoting sustainable consumption and production has indeed become vital. The adoption of the 10-year framework has created the opportunity to build a global framework for action to enhance international cooperation and advance the implementation of sustainable consumption and production in all countries. Its objective is to generate a collective impact through multi-stakeholder programmes and partnerships, support the development and scaling up of successful sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives at all levels, foster knowledge and the sharing of experience, and facilitate access to technical and financial resources for developing countries for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), acting as the secretariat of the 10-year framework, has actively supported these efforts. Recently, UNEP also announced that sustainable consumption and production and sustainable lifestyles would be the theme of the 2015 World Environment Day (Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care).

3. The present report has been prepared by the secretariat of the framework on behalf of the board of the framework in response to General Assembly resolution 69/214, in which the Assembly requested the board and the secretariat to submit updated reports, through the Council, for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2015.

4. The present report follows and complements the first report transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council in the context of its coordination and management meeting on 17 and 18 November 2014 (E/2014/93). The first report summarized the governance and implementation of the 10-year framework since the formation of its intergovernmental board on 16 September 2013 (see General Assembly decision 67/564).

5. With the support of the secretariat of the 10-year framework, as well as with the contribution of a wide range of partners, considerable progress has been made over the last six months. Four out of six 10-year framework programmes have now been developed and launched and a fifth will be launched in April. In addition, the trust fund of the framework, established to support sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives in developing countries and economies in transition, has been operationalized.

6. Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns is one of 17 sustainable development goals proposed in the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (goal 12) in July 2014 (A/68/970). In the context of the international community's efforts to build

and achieve the post-2015 development agenda, the 10-year framework could offer an innovative and transformative implementation mechanism for the agenda.

A. Board of the 10-year framework

7. In its resolution 69/214, the United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed its resolution 67/203 with regard to the board of the 10-year framework, and decided that the duration of subsequent terms for members of the board of the 10-year framework would continue to be two years, starting on 16 September of every second year, and that the United Nations regional groups could renominate one of their existing two members of the board for one consecutive term, while ensuring that no Member State may be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms and taking into account the importance of ensuring continuity and rotation in the work of the board.

8. The third meeting of the board was hosted by the Government of Chile on 15 and 16 October 2014 at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Santiago. Eight member countries participated, namely, Chile, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Republic of Tanzania. Changes on the shared seats (Bangladesh replacing Indonesia, Germany replacing Finland and Japan replacing the Republic of Korea) were acknowledged. The board is currently chaired by Germany, with Mexico as Vice-Chair.

9. The importance of strengthening cooperation within and between the five geographic regions represented on the board was highlighted. The direct and effective participation of national focal points and stakeholders, especially in the design and implementation of the 10-year framework programmes was seen as essential. The board also requested the secretariat of the framework to develop a branding policy to associate high quality projects with the framework and its programmes. That policy would also support project proposals with high potential that were not selected for the trust fund owing to limited resources. Board members expressed general support for the promotion of sustainable consumption and production and the framework in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. They also highlighted the importance of the link between shifting to sustainable consumption and production patterns and poverty eradication. In this context, Board members expressed their willingness to further engage and promote the framework at important high-profile international events, such as the meeting of the World Economic Forum in 2015, where topics relevant to sustainable consumption and production are of strong interest. It was agreed that the selection of indicators to measure progress under the framework should be made in close cooperation with the leads, co-leads and multi-stakeholder advisory committees of the programmes and the regions, with reference to the future post-2015 development agenda.

B. Mobilization of stakeholders for the implementation of the 10-year framework at the regional and national levels

10. Further engagement of all the 10-year framework stakeholders in activities aimed at sharing experience and building capacity at the regional and subregional levels has been achieved over the last six months. These new or reinforced

sustainable consumption and production activities involved the participation of the board members, national focal points (115 national focal points have been nominated to date) and stakeholder focal points representing all major groups (60 global and regional stakeholder focal points have been nominated to date). Regional dialogues were organized in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Asia to allow for further development and implementation of regional sustainable consumption and production strategies. They also contributed to "cross-fertilization" with and/or integration of existing regional cooperation platforms, such as the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) or the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

11. A small island developing States initiative for sustainable consumption and production within the 10-year framework was launched at the International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, showing the way towards more interregional and South-South cooperation under the framework. As a follow-up, UNEP took part in a regional Caribbean meeting, held in Barbados from 27 to 29 January 2015, with the objective of developing project proposals for small island developing States under the framework programmes. This initiative was taken in response to decision 5 of the nineteenth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean on small island developing States and sustainable development and to paragraph 69 of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (see General Assembly resolution 69/15).

12. The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago from 13 to 15 October 2014, gathering national focal points for the 10-year framework from nine countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and Saint Lucia). The Executive Committee developed a new regional strategy and action plan for sustainable consumption and production in Latin America and the Caribbean to be presented at the intersessional meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in March 2015. The implementation road maps adopted in the Arab region in 2013 and in Asia and the Pacific in April 2014 provide models for shifting, in a fully integrated manner, towards sustainable consumption and production patterns in the context of regional cooperation mechanisms of Latin America and the Caribbean. The documents also identify specific priorities and needs to be addressed by framework programmes. A joint session was organized for dialogue between the Executive Committee and the framework board, which was holding its third meeting following the meeting of the Executive Committee.

13. The first 10-year framework multi-stakeholder regional meeting for Eastern Europe was held in Geneva on 27 October 2014, in collaboration with ECE, gathering 14 country representatives, non-governmental organizations and other organizations, such as the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a global and regional overview of the framework and to share progress on national and regional initiatives, policies and activities related to sustainable consumption and production, identifying synergies and potential areas of cooperation. The meeting offered an opportunity for participants to express their needs and priorities with respect to sustainable consumption and production and to secure the region's active engagement in the

development and implementation of the framework programmes. Conclusions from the meeting were conveyed to the meeting of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, which followed immediately.

14. The first meeting of national focal points for the 10-year framework and stakeholders from the Group of Western European and other States was held on 10 and 11 December 2014 in Rome. The meeting gathered 13 national focal points from the region, representatives of several major groups (non-governmental organizations, business and industry, and women) and the co-leads of three framework programmes (Consumers International, Local Governments for Sustainability and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)). Participants shared ideas on collaborative action and exchange of information to accelerate implementation of the framework. They highlighted the importance for the countries of the region to communicate about their efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production at all levels, as well as the need to build linkages between sustainable consumption and production and other sustainable development work streams, such as climate change and poverty eradication.

15. In addition, two subregional capacity-building workshops for national focal points for the 10-year framework were organized in Asia. The South-East Asia training workshop for national focal points, held in Vientiane from 21 to 23 October 2014, was co-organized with the SWITCH-Asia policy support component. The meeting gathered 25 participants from seven countries from the region, the ASEAN secretariat, the European Union and Japan, among others. Participants were trained on sustainable consumption and production policy and the framework and informed about the scientific findings of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management. A second workshop on sustainable consumption and production policies and the 10-year framework for national focal points from South Asia was held from 26 to 28 February 2015 in Colombo, following the preparatory meeting of the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production organized by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific with the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme. There was agreement among representatives of member States to establish the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The workshop allowed for initial exchanges on the region's priorities and coordination with the framework and its programmes, as well as with SWITCH-Asia. Both workshops contributed to the implementation of the Asia-Pacific road map on the 10-year framework.

16. Regional and subregional dialogue and cooperation activities contributed to a better understanding of capacity-building needs at the regional and national levels, which will in turn strengthen the responsiveness of the 10-year framework and its programmes. These activities highlighted the need to provide national focal points with concrete tools and inspiring best practices, as well as the importance of institutional strengthening, interministerial coordination and stakeholder participation. As a response, the secretariat of the framework is developing a toolkit for national focal points that will provide guidance and tools based on real experiences of national focal points for institutional strengthening, participation in the programmes, stakeholders' engagement and other key aspects of the role of national focal points in the framework.

C. Development, launching and operationalization of the 10-year framework programmes

17. The 10-year framework programmes provide open, inclusive and collaborative platforms on which stakeholders from all sectors of society and all regions of the world can work together in a systematic way to achieve collective objectives and contribute to the overarching goals of the framework. The programmes are inclusive and action-oriented. They aim at: (a) building synergies and cooperation and bringing together existing initiatives and partners; (b) scaling up and replicating successful policies and best practices for sustainable consumption and production; and (c) generating and supporting new projects and activities on sustainable consumption and production in response to regional and national priorities and needs, as they emerge.

18. Significant progress has been made with regard to the development and launching of 10-year framework programmes. In total, four of the six current programmes have been launched over the last 12 months (April 2014 to March 2015). These programmes are the result of a broad and inclusive consultative process facilitated by the secretariat of the framework, building on the achievements of the Marrakech Process. Through surveys, stock-taking exercises, regional, expert and online consultations, this participatory approach has given the opportunity to many stakeholders and countries to contribute, including through their national focal points and stakeholder focal points.

19. The 10-year framework programmes also benefit from a solid governance structure established through calls for expression of interest facilitated by the secretariat of the framework. For each programme, this governance structure includes a leadership (up to one lead and three co-lead entities), which provides a fully dedicated coordination desk to the programme, and a multi-stakeholder advisory committee (up to 25 organizations, including the lead and co-lead entities).

20. The 10-year framework programmes now include the expertise and implementation networks needed to have a large-scale collective impact on the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. Today, 335 Governments and stakeholder organizations have actively engaged in the governance and implementation of the programmes, 18 in the leadership (including 9 governmental entities, 3 international non-governmental organizations, 2 United Nations agencies and 1 international business association) and 87 in the multi-stakeholder advisory committees of the programmes. A total of 231 further institutions are partners in the five launched programmes. Keeping in mind that new partners can join the 10-year framework programmes at any time to support their implementation, the scale of these partnerships, coupled with the required level of commitment, is unprecedented in the area of sustainable consumption and production.

21. Historical partners on sustainable consumption and production formerly engaged in the Marrakech Process. New partners with global, regional or national scope have stepped into a broadened global sustainable consumption and production community and created new collaboration and synergies. This has led to the inclusion in the 10-year framework programmes of key existing initiatives, such as the Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism or the Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living. Similarly, initiatives such as the Sustainable Buildings and

Climate Initiative and the International Agri-Food Task Force are expected to contribute to the framework programmes on sustainable buildings and construction and sustainable food systems once they are launched.

Sustainable public procurement

22. The sustainable public procurement programme was formally launched on 1 April 2014 in the margins of the tenth session of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, held at United Nations Headquarters. UNEP is leading the programme, with the Korean Environmental Industry and Technology Institute and Local Governments for Sustainability as co-leads. The programme includes 69 participating institutions and experts on sustainable public procurement, such as the United Nations Office for Project Services, the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the Organization for Economic Cooperation Development, and departments and agencies of 19 Governments from all regions. The multi-stakeholder advisory committee consists of a total of 15 institutions, increasing to 20 in 2015, encompassing Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

23. In the period from October 2014 to March 2015, a number of key deliverables were achieved in the framework of the working groups of the sustainable public procurement programme. Final recommendations for efficient systems to monitor the implementation of sustainable public procurement were produced in March 2015. These recommendations build on several activities which took place between October 2014 and February 2015, such as the collection of case studies on monitoring implementation of sustainable public procurement, the drafting of preliminary policy recommendations for efficient systems to monitor implementation of sustainable public procurement and an analysis of the ability of public agencies to implement the working group's recommendations for better monitoring and evaluation of sustainable public procurement systems. A final baseline review report on measuring the impact and communicating the benefits of sustainable public procurement was issued in February 2015. A technical report on the use of product-service systems to enhance sustainable public procurement was also produced. Another significant achievement was the adoption by the multi-stakeholder advisory committee of the sustainable public procurement principles, which were publicly released in March 2015. The multi-stakeholder advisory committee renewal process was launched in February 2015, with the composition of the new committee announced on 3 April 2015.

24. The first call for proposals under the trust fund of the 10-year framework was launched in October 2014, with a focus on sustainable public procurement. Selected projects will contribute to the implementation of sustainable public procurement policies and measures at country and local levels.

25. To date, three projects have been approved to receive trust fund support (for a total amount of $500,000), based on criteria established and validated with the framework board and the sustainable public procurement programme. The projects are as follows: (a) in South Africa, a project proposal from the Western Cape government in cooperation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development on mainstreaming sustainable public procurement through the introduction of product service systems in the Western Cape; (b) in Uruguay, a

project proposal from the Ministry of the Environment and the National Procurement Agency, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Project Services, to transform the Uruguayan public procurement system into enabler for sustainable development and to enable implementation and enforcement of a legislation on sustainability criteria in public procurement; and (c) in the Philippines, a project proposal from the Philippine Centre for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development and the Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department of Quezon City, the largest city in metropolitan Manila, on the establishment and implementation of green public procurement at the city level for the promotion of sustainable consumption and production.

Consumer information

26. The 10-year framework consumer information programme was launched on 1 July 2014 during the meeting of the high-level political forum in New York. The consumer information programme is co-led by Germany, through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety; Indonesia, through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry; and Consumers International. The programme has a 21-member multi-stakeholder advisory committee and requests from more than 30 institutions to be partners.

27. The first meeting of the multi-stakeholder advisory committee of the programme was held on 6 and 7 November 2014 in Paris, where the programme's implementation pathway was agreed upon and its workplan developed, including priority activities such as the development of guidelines for reliable consumer sustainability information and the identification of opportunities for integration of the social dimension in consumer information policies and practices. Since then, several activities have been initiated under the consumer information programme that may also contribute to supporting the sectoral programmes of the 10-year framework in developing and implementing sustainability information strategies.

28. A large-scale project of €4.5 million has been pre-approved under this programme to be implemented in eight countries (Chile, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, Peru, Philippines and Thailand), in cooperation with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and with the support of the International Climate Initiative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety in Germany. If confirmed, the project will support the development and implementation of sustainability information systems for enhanced access, communication and use of information related to the environmental, social and economic impacts of goods and services. While contributing to the consumer information system, the project will build close cooperation with other 10-year framework programmes for the concrete application of consumer information approaches and tools at the sectoral level (e.g. tourism, agriculture and food, and public procurement). One of the objectives of the project will also be to identify and develop proposals for nationally appropriate mitigation actions in relation to sustainable consumption and production and consumer information.

29. In addition, the 10-year framework consumer information programme is working closely with the secretariat of the framework to promote transformative approaches to consumption patterns, such as behavioural economics, and develop

inspiring case studies for framework programmes to apply these approaches in their own area or sector of work.

Sustainable tourism, including eco-tourism

30. The sustainable tourism, including eco-tourism, programme was launched in London on 5 November 2014 during the World Travel Market. The sustainable tourism programme is led by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and co-led by the Ministries of Tourism of Morocco and the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Environment of France. The programme has a 22-member multi-stakeholder advisory committee, comprising Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sector bodies, and a further 119 partners around the world. The sustainable tourism programme builds on the previous work of the Marrakech Process International Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development, as well as on the objectives and activities of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism. The first meeting of the multi-stakeholder advisory committee of the programme was held in Madrid on 27 January 2015 at the headquarters of UNWTO.

31. The mission of the sustainable tourism programme will be to support cooperation between stakeholders for the development and implementation of good practices in resource-efficient, low carbon tourism planning, reducing the loss of biodiversity, conserving ecosystems, preserving cultural heritage, alleviating poverty and improving sustainable livelihoods. Priority work areas have been identified as: (a) integration of sustainable consumption and production in tourism policies and frameworks (including tourism master plans and monitoring frameworks); (b) collaboration among stakeholders for the improvement of the tourism sector's sustainable consumption and production performance (data-sharing and exchange of information and strengthening of technical competencies and monitoring frameworks); (c) fostering the application of guidelines, instruments and technical solutions to improve, prevent and mitigate tourism impacts and to mainstream sustainable consumption and production patterns among tourism stakeholders (integrated tools for sustainable consumption and production in destinations and enterprises, for research and action on priority issues within the tourism value chain and for influencing consumers); and (d) enhancing sustainable tourism investment and financing.

Sustainable lifestyles and education

32. The sustainable lifestyles and education programme was launched at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, held in Nagoya, Japan, on 11 November 2014 under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Government of Sweden and WWF. The sustainable lifestyles and education programme has 22 organizations in its multi-stakeholder advisory committee and is supported by a coordination desk provided by the co-leads of the programme through the Stockholm Environment Institute in Sweden, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Japan and WWF France.

33. The programme's vision is of a world where sustainable lifestyles are desirable, beneficial and accessible for everyone and enabled, supported and encouraged by all sectors of society, including Governments, the business sector and

civil society. Priority work areas have been identified as: (a) developing and replicating sustainable lifestyles, including low-carbon lifestyles (promoting innovative models and traditional practices of sustainable lifestyles, supporting conducive policies, infrastructures and economic instruments, building the business case and encouraging responsible market innovation for sustainable lifestyles); (b) educating for sustainable lifestyles (mainstreaming sustainable lifestyles into formal education, making sustainable lifestyles a focus in every learning environment and mobilizing and empowering youth for sustainable lifestyles); and (c) transforming current and shaping future generations' lifestyles (developing scenarios for sustainable, low carbon lifestyles, developing frameworks and tools to assess and track lifestyle impacts and ensuring and measuring the programme contribution to global priority challenges).

34. The first meeting of the multi-stakeholder advisory committee of the sustainable lifestyles and education programme was held on 18 and 19 March 2015 in Tokyo, where the three co-leads and the members of the multi-stakeholder advisory committee reviewed the objectives of the sustainable lifestyles and education programme, set priorities and activity schedules for the next two years and outlined core flagship project areas.

Sustainable buildings and construction

35. The full proposal for the sustainable buildings and construction programme of the 10-year framework, including its governance structure, was submitted to the framework board for validation on 25 March 2015. Upon validation by the board, the programme could be launched on 20 April during the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, under the leadership of Finland, with UNEP, the World Green Building Council and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology as co-leads. The programme has been developed, as was the case with other programmes of the 10-year framework, through a consultative process which took place in September and October 2014.

36. In addition to the lead and co-leads of the programme, 18 expert organizations from all sectors of society and regions of the world will be participating in the multi-stakeholder advisory committee of the programme. The programme would build on the previous work of the Marrakech Process Task Force on Sustainable Buildings and Construction and create cooperation and synergies with the Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative.

37. The vision of the sustainable buildings and construction programme of the 10-year framework, as set out in the proposal submitted to the framework board, is to achieve a situation in 2030 in which all stakeholders involved in the planning, design, construction, commissioning, management, operation and deconstruction of buildings have a common understanding of sustainable buildings and the knowledge, resources and incentives required to create, maintain and use them. Such structures are healthy to live and work in, sustainably utilize energy, water, land and other key resources, respect environmental limits and ultimately have a minimally adverse impact on the natural world, and support social and economic development. Proposed priority work areas have been identified as: establishing and promoting enabling frameworks to implement sustainable buildings and construction policies; supporting and promoting sustainable housing; enhancing sustainability in the building supply chain; reducing climate impact and

strengthening climate resilience of the building and construction sector; and sharing knowledge and raising awareness.

Sustainable food systems

38. At its second meeting, in March 2014, the board of the 10-year framework approved a proposal for development and inclusion of a new programme on sustainable food systems. This was based on a proposal submitted jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNEP, building on the work of the FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Programme established in 2011. The proposal was developed in response to formal requests from four Governments from different regions, namely, Costa Rica, South Africa, Switzerland and the United States of America.

39. An initial online survey had been organized in July 2014, with the participation of 169 stakeholder organizations, which indicated that food security and nutrition, climate change, food losses and waste, biodiversity and habitat loss, and water scarcity and efficiency could all play prominent roles in the programme. As a follow-up, and in partnership with FAO, an expert workshop was held in Rome in September 2014 to support the development of an initial concept note. A public consultation on the sustainable food systems programme was then launched on 14 March 2015 by the secretariat of the framework and the Food Security and Nutrition Network of FAO, and a call was made for preliminary expressions of interest to take an active role in the programme, which is expected to be launched during the third quarter of 2015.

40. In the concept note circulated for consultation, it is stated that the proposed vision of the programme is a world where all food systems are sustainable, delivering food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.

D. Operationalization of the trust fund of the 10-year framework and mobilization of resources

41. The trust fund of the 10-year framework became operational in 2014 with the adoption by the framework board of the principles and criteria on calls for proposals and the launch of the first call for proposals in October 2014.

42. The trust fund call for proposals has proven to be an effective tool to bring in new partners to the framework and to catalyse the development of high quality, high impact project proposals. Twenty-nine eligible proposals were received under the first call for proposals on sustainable public procurement, out of a total of 51 complete project proposals. Of the 29 eligible projects, 13 were submitted by Governments and 16 by other stakeholders. The projects originated from Asia, including West Asia (11), Latin America and the Caribbean (9), Africa (7) and Eastern Europe (2).

43. At least two new calls for proposals will be launched under the trust fund by June 2015 to support the consumer information and sustainable lifestyles and education programmes (up to $500,000 for each call) focused on activities in developing countries and economies in transition.

44. In addition, the secretariat of the 10-year framework has developed a resource mobilization strategy that includes specific objectives and recommendations for action with regard to: (a) strengthening the traditional donor base and deepening the relationships with long-term and historical donors and partners; (b) diversifying the funding base, increasing the contribution of non-traditional donors, including financial institutions and development agencies, and engaging the private sector; (c) attracting unearmarked resources specifically dedicated to calls for proposals under the trust fund; (d) increasing capacities of countries and partners to mobilize resources in support of the framework and its programmes, including through partnership development and strategic coalitions; (e) encouraging domestic investment in the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns; and (f) programme-based fund-raising.

45. Financial support received by the secretariat for cross-cutting activities and support for the implementation of the framework programmes amounted to more than $8,200,000 over the period from 2012 to March 2015. The support has been provided by: Denmark, Finland, Germany, Israel, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden and the European Commission. In total, more than $2,200,000 is available for the trust fund calls for proposals. In addition, financial resources are mobilized by the secretariat and the programmes through flagship projects. One of them will receive €4,500,000 from the International Climate Initiative of Germany in 2015.

46. The trust fund is one among many mechanisms that can be mobilized to support implementation on the ground. Already, key partners of the framework, such as the European Commission, have issued calls for proposals with a focus on the 10-year framework programmes (SWITCH-Asia). In addition, the framework programmes are developing and implementing their own funding strategies, with the support of leads/co-leads and the active participation of members of their multi-stakeholder advisory committee. The objective is to bring together a diverse array of implementing partners to design and implement innovative and effective sustainable consumption and production projects on a large scale. The secretariat is developing a financial reporting scheme to reflect all resources mobilized by the programmes and their partners, including in-kind contributions.

E. Sustainable consumption and production and the 10-year framework in the post-2015 development agenda

47. On 19 July 2014, at the conclusion of its thirteenth session, the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals forwarded to the General Assembly its report containing 17 proposed sustainable development goals and 169 targets (A/68/970). The report makes sustainable consumption and production an integral component of the proposed sustainable development goals. Goal 12 focuses on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns and includes a target dedicated to implementation of the 10-year framework (target 12.1). In addition, sustainable consumption and production is reflected as a crosscutting enabler for the achievement of many of the other sustainable development goals.

48. The recognition of sustainable consumption and production as a condition for the achievement of sustainability will play, in the very near future, a central role in

determining the way objectives and approaches related to sustainable consumption and production are mainstreamed into decision-making and national development and economic plans. The 10-year framework could thus clearly serve as an innovative and transformative means of implementation of the future post-2015 development agenda. UNEP has provided technical inputs on the reflection of sustainable consumption and production in the sustainable development goals and the 10-year framework as an implementation mechanism for the post-2015 development agenda.

49. Research on the added value of sustainable consumption and production with regard to global challenges, including poverty eradication, competitiveness and climate change mitigation has advanced. A publication, built around a series of evidence-based case studies, is being developed in partnership with the University College of London and the Overseas Development Institute in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and will be released in April or May 2015. A large group of experts, within and outside of UNEP, including experts from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have been participating in the elaboration of this publication.

50. Further efforts have been invested in the development of sustainable consumption and production indicators and the dissemination of scientific knowledge about sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency. In close cooperation with the secretariat of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, a broad range of international experts and institutions gathered in Paris in December 2014 to review the first draft of a UNEP discussion paper on sustainable consumption and production indicators for the future sustainable development goals. The paper was subsequently released in March 2015 at the start of the post-2015 development agenda negotiations. This work on sustainable consumption and production indicators will be closely linked to the tools to be developed to support countries and all relevant stakeholders in taking stock of existing sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives and monitoring progress under the 10-year framework.

51. Among these tools, the global survey on national sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives is expected to be launched by the secretariat of the framework in April 2015 to: (a) support the national focal points in taking stock of existing relevant Government-led sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives in their countries, and thus develop their country profile on the global sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse; and (b) better identify opportunities for the framework to respond to specific needs and priorities.

F. Global sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse

52. The community of the global sustainable consumption and production clearinghouse, the knowledge-sharing and information platform of the 10-year framework, has grown extensively since its launch in 2013. It now comprises more than 2,000 members from more than 150 countries, representing more than 1,500 institutions (governmental and non-governmental). More than 165,000 pages have been viewed and the global database of sustainable consumption and production initiatives now includes more than 600 entries.

53. An extensive upgrade of the clearinghouse will take place over the next six months, which will entail the development of new sections and features. In particular, national focal points of the 10-year framework will be given the opportunity to develop their country's national sustainable consumption and production profile, highlighting key strategies, policies and initiatives contributing to the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns. They will also have access to the global survey on national sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives, which will allow them to reflect on and share progress achieved at the institutional and policy level and specific measures or initiatives in the scope of the framework programmes or other key sectors relevant to sustainable consumption and production.

G. First global meeting of the 10-year framework

54. Three years after the adoption of the 10-year framework at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the first global meeting of the 10-year framework will be held on 14 and 15 May 2015 in New York. The objectives are twofold: (a) to promote the 10-year framework as an implementation mechanism of the future post-2015 development agenda, with a focus on delivery at the regional and national levels; and (b) to operationalize the collective impact approach, including by developing synergies and interlinkages between the programmes of the 10-year framework.

55. The first day of the meeting will bring governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, including some high-level participants, actively engaged in implementation of the 10-year framework, together with a broad international audience. These stakeholders will: (a) illustrate and explore the universal nature and added value of shifting towards sustainable consumption and production for the achievement of sustainable development; (b) enable regions and countries to share experience about sustainable consumption and production strategies, policies and initiatives, capacity-building needs and priorities relevant to the design and implementation of ongoing 10-year framework programmes; (c) identify existing implementation capacities and initiatives on which the 10-year framework can build, so that concrete results can be delivered by the 10-year framework by 2017 (mid-term review) and January 2023 (end date of the 10-year framework); and (d) engage the development cooperation community in the implementation of the 10-year framework, offering its programmes mandated by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as delivery mechanisms for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns at the national and regional levels.

56. A workshop will be held on the second day of the meeting that will focus on coordinated action for effective delivery of the 10-year framework on the ground, bringing together members of the framework board and major actors in the implementation of the framework. The objectives are to: (a) to bring together for the first time the leadership and im plementation actors of the 10-year framework programmes to support accelerated implementation; (b) to increase the programmes' capacities to create synergies with current regional and national strategies and initiatives using a collective impact approach; (c) to identify joint work areas and potentially transformative, large-scale projects spanning more than one programme; and (d) to provide input for the development of indicators to measure progress under

the framework that also relate to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

H. Lessons learned and recommendations

57. The objective of shifting to sustainable consumption and production patterns has become a transversal element in the proposed sustainable development goals and the focus of a stand-alone goal. Many Governments already view the 10-year framework as an important implementation mechanism for the future post-2015 development agenda. Further support will be needed to build upon the solid foundations of the framework and strengthen and maintain the engagement of all actors, while assisting them in developing their capacities and delivering concrete results under the framework programmes. National focal points, in particular, are key to an effective framework and to the interministerial coordination required at the national level to design and implement effective sustainable consumption and production policies.

58. Synergies between programmes are potentially of prime importance. The opportunities for improving the comprehensiveness of programmes under the 10-year framework in support of national sustainable development transitions include: (a) identification by actors in all programmes of areas of cooperation and synergy, including between framework programmes, in order to ensure a wider collective impact and effective resource mobilization; (b) showcasing, through framework programmes and country experiences, that the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns offers solutions for society, the economy and the environment; and (c) identification of other priority themes to be addressed through framework programmes in response to specific needs and priorities expressed by Member States and stakeholders.

59. One of the key challenges for the 10-year framework remains the engagement of the business sector at all levels in programmes as partners or as multi-stakeholder advisory committee members of the programmes. International and regional meetings, which business stakeholder focal points attend, are one key tool to promote this engagement, but further and possibly thematic opportunities are required.

60. The core function of the 10-year framework is to support the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns at regional and national levels, especially in the developing countries. Beyond the engagement of national focal points', fund-raising on a large scale, especially for the trust fund of the framework (un-earmarked) is essential in order for the 10-year framework to remain a demand-driven implementation mechanism. While significant progress has been made on fund-raising since September 2014, funding on a much broader scale is required to fulfil the transformative potential of the 10-year framework and its programmes.

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Assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 69/242, contains an assessment of the assistance received by the Palestinian people, needs still unmet and proposals for responding to them. It provides a description of efforts made by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Government, donors and civil society, to support the Palestinian population and institutions.

During the reporting period (May 2014-March 2015), the situation on the ground deteriorated following the breakdown of peace negotiations. The United Nations continued its efforts to respond to humanitarian and development challenges in the context of occupation, but placed particular focus on providing humanitarian assistance during and after the conflict between Gaza and Israel and support to the Palestinian Government of national consensus. The Organization, while maintaining that full lifting of the closures of Gaza was required, brokered a temporary agreement between the Governments of Israel and the State of Palestine to enable the entry, use and monitoring of "dual-use" material into Gaza to allow reconstruction work and the rehabilitation of damaged facilities at scale.

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The 2015 Strategic Response Plan, requiring $705 million, outlines the programming to meet urgent humanitarian needs throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. To complement that programming and respond to the governance, recovery, reconstruction and structural development needs that have been compounded by the conflict, the United Nations Support Plan for the Transformation of the Gaza Strip 2014-2016 details the contribution of the United Nations to the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza for 2014-2017 and requests $2.1 billion. In addition, at the request of the Government, the United Nations, together with the European Union and the World Bank, carried out a detailed needs assessment to further inform the recovery and reconstruction work in Gaza.

The Government continued to implement the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014-2016: State-building to Sovereignty. In support of those efforts, the United Nations continued to implement the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2014-2016. The financial resources required for the assistance provided through the Framework are some $1.2 billion.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 69/242, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution, containing an assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people and an assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them. Also included is a summary of key political developments and challenges relevant to the reporting period, as the international community continued to work to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, especially during and after the escalation of hostilities in Gaza, and to support the State-building efforts of the Government of the State of Palestine and to promote negotiations between the parties. The reporting period is from May 2014 to March 2015.

2. Information on the living and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestinian people is provided in several reports prepared by other United Nations agencies, in particular: the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (to be issued); the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (A/69/13); and the report of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee in September 2014.

3. The humanitarian, economic and development needs of the Palestinian people are reflected in several complementary strategic and resource mobilization documents. The 2015 Strategic Response Plan seeks $705 million to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs by enhancing the protective environment and tackling the food insecurity of the most vulnerable groups throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. To address the governance, recovery, reconstruction and structural development needs that have been compounded by the conflict, the United Nations Support Plan for the Transformation of the Gaza Strip 2014-2016 details the United Nations contribution to the Palestinian National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza for 2014-2017 and requests $2.1 billion. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework presents the United Nations strategic response to the Palestinian development priorities contained in the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014-2016: State-building to Sovereignty.

4. During the conflict, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process worked with the parties and the international community to negotiate humanitarian pauses and ceasefires. In response to the unprecedented reconstruction needs of the Gaza Strip, the Office brokered a temporary agreement between the Governments of Israel and the State of Palestine to enable the entry, use and monitoring of "dual-use" material into Gaza to allow reconstruction work and the rehabilitation of damaged facilities at scale. Throughout the year, the Office continued its efforts to support the peace process and to ensure effective coordination among the Government of the State of Palestine, the United Nations, the international community and the Government of Israel. It also continued to document the economic and social conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory and to develop policies and programmes to improve them.

II. Overview of the current situation

A. Political context

5. Since the collapse of the peace talks brokered by the United States of America in April 2014, negotiations between the parties have not resumed. Negative developments thereafter, primarily the abduction and killing of three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank and of a Palestinian teenager in East Jerusalem, in addition to the conflict, reduced the prospects of resuming meaningful talks.

6. On 30 December, the Security Council rejected a Palestinian-drafted resolution submitted by Jordan in which it would have, among other things, called for a final peace agreement to be reached within a year and an end to the Israeli occupation by the end of 2017. The resolution failed to garner the minimum 9 of 15 votes.

7. On 31 December, the President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, signed instruments of accession to 18 international treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and lodged a declaration accepting the Court's jurisdiction since 13 June 2014. On 2 January, 16 instruments of accession were submitted to the Secretary-General, who accepted them in deposit after having ascertained that they were in due and proper form. In response, Israel began to suspend the transfer of tax revenue that it collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority and was, at the time of writing, withholding the amounts for December, January and February.

8. Quartet envoys continued to meet regularly and to engage the parties to encourage them to resume peace negotiations. On 8 February, the principals met in Munich, Germany, and declared that they would remain actively engaged in preparing for a resumption of the peace process, including regular and direct outreach to Arab States.

9. Long-overdue Palestinian elections were not conducted during the reporting period. In Israel, the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, dissolved his coalition Government on 2 December. General elections were held on 17 March, some two years ahead of schedule.

10. The situation in the West Bank, already tense owing to a hunger strike by more than 100 prisoners and an increase in demolitions, worsened on 12 June when three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped and murdered near Hebron, reportedly by Hamas affiliates. Hamas rejected the accusation but issued statements in which it glorified the perpetrators. A Palestinian teenager from East Jerusalem was abducted and killed in a retaliatory attack on 2 July; three Israelis were charged with the crime and are currently on trial. During intensive search operations in the West Bank after the kidnapping of the Israeli teenagers, including in major population centres, 6 Palestinians were killed, more than 800 injured and more than 500 reportedly arrested. A large majority of those arrested were Hamas affiliates and more than 50 Palestinians previously released as part of the so-called "Shalit deal".

11. Settlement activity continued apace, including significant announcements by the Israeli authorities in June and October that they would construct thousands of units. Following those announcements and the conflict, tensions increased in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Individual attacks by Palestinians, including

against the light rail system in Jerusalem, were met by punitive house demolitions and further access restrictions by Israel, including to Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount. Clashes there occurred on a weekly basis until 13 November, when the Secretary of State of the United States, John F. Kerry, and the King of Jordan, King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, held separate meetings in Amman with the President of the State of Palestine and the Prime Minister of Israel and agreement was struck to reduce the tensions. Israel has since lifted access restrictions on male Palestinian worshippers.

12. The deterioration of the situation in the West Bank also included plans to transfer Bedouins, including from the strategic E1 area, to relocation sites; increases in demolitions of Palestinian structures, including residences; clashes between Palestinians and settlers; and an escalation in violent clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and the Israeli security forces resulting in casualties on both sides, including Palestinian casualties caused by live fire. A mass hunger strike by Palestinians imprisoned in Israel was suspended on 25 June when an agreement was reached with the Israeli authorities to begin negotiations on prisoner conditions, including detention without charge.

13. In Gaza, at a time when the de facto authorities were under increasing financial pressure resulting from the closure of smuggling tunnels by Egypt, the relative calm prevailing since November 2012 unravelled following the murder of the three Israeli teenagers and the ensuing arrest of hundreds of Hamas supporters throughout the West Bank. There was also an increase in rockets fired from Gaza and Israeli air strikes on Gaza beginning on 24 June, including 85 rockets fired at Israel by Hamas and other militant groups on 7 July. From 8 July to 26 August, a 50-day Israeli military operation was conducted in and around Gaza. It was the third major conflict – and the longest and most violent – between Israel and Palestinian armed groups since Hamas assumed control of Gaza in 2007. Israel struck more than 5,000 locations in Gaza and reportedly demolished 32 tunnels, including 14 with openings inside Israel. In excess of 3,500 rockets were fired by Hamas and other Palestinian militants from Gaza at Israel; another 700 were intercepted by the Iron Dome defence system. More than 2,200 Palestinians, mostly civilians and including some 500 children, were killed. On the Israeli side, 66 Israel Defense Forces personnel and five civilians, including a child and a foreign national, were killed.

14. On 26 August, following several humanitarian pauses, an open-ended ceasefire brokered by Egypt went into effect. The agreement provided for a comprehensive ceasefire, the opening of the crossings between Gaza and Israel to allow for the entry of humanitarian assistance and reconstruction material, the expansion of the fishing zone and the continuation of indirect negotiations between the parties on all other topics within a month of the acceptance of the agreement. On 23 September, Israelis and Palestinians met in Cairo to discuss strengthening the ceasefire arrangements. At the time of writing, no additional meetings had been held and the ceasefire remained fragile, with Palestinian armed groups frequently test-firing rockets.

15. At a donor conference held on 12 October in Cairo, the international community pledged some $5.4 billion for the reconstruction needs of Gaza and to support the budget of the Government of the State of Palestine until 2017. The United Nations, while maintaining that full lifting of the closures of Gaza was

required in accordance with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), brokered a temporary agreement between the Governments of Israel and the State of Palestine to enable the entry, use and monitoring of "dual-use" material, such as aggregate, bars and cement, into Gaza for reconstruction. That temporary reconstruction mechanism has to date enabled some 88,000 households to purchase construction material to repair shelters. It has also processed more than 100 construction projects, including for housing, water networks and schools, of which 56 have been approved.

16. The pace of reconstruction remained far below the expectations of the population in Gaza, however, primarily as a result of the low level of disbursement of pledges made in Cairo and the lack of progress in tackling the underlying causes of instability. In addition, only limited financial support was provided to United Nations agencies carrying out vital humanitarian operations in Gaza. At the end of January, UNRWA suspended its cash assistance programme that supported repairs and provided rental subsidies to Palestinian refugee families owing to a lack of funds. Consequently, demonstrators attacked the compound housing the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process in Gaza on 29 January, damaging the facility and assets.

17. The Palestinian divide continued, notwithstanding the "Beach Camp" intra-Palestinian unity accord signed by the Government of the State of Palestine and Hamas on 23 April and the formation of an interim technocratic Government of national consensus by the President on 2 June on the basis of the Palestine Liberation Organization commitments of recognition of Israel, non-violence and adherence to previous agreements. The Government was broadly accepted by the international community, including the United Nations. On 25 September, Palestinian factions reached an understanding to facilitate the implementation of the unity accord, including by allowing the Government to take up its governance and security functions in Gaza, including control over the crossings, and effectively steer reconstruction efforts. Those efforts have yet to bear fruit, however, partly owing to the limited progress made on much-needed civil service reform and the consequent delays in paying the thousands of civil servants hired by the de facto authorities since June 2007.

B. Humanitarian and socioeconomic context

Economic and fiscal developments

18. According to the Ministry of Finance, while the Government continued to implement key economic and fiscal reforms, fiscal consolidation progressed slowly during the reporting period. The fiscal strain is evident through the continued accumulation of arrears and high public debt. In 2014, both total revenue and total expenditure were 5 per cent above budget, with net lending reaching 170 per cent of the budgeted amount. This resulted in a total deficit of $1.64 billion. In 2014, the Government received just in excess of $1 billion in direct budget support, a sum lower than projected.

19. According to the International Monetary Fund, economic activity contracted in 2014, following the conflict and mounting political tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It estimates that the real gross domestic product fell by nearly 1 per cent, the first contraction since 2006, with gross domestic product

declining by about 15 per cent in Gaza but rising by 4.5 per cent in the West Bank, with a sharp slowdown in the third quarter.

20. The International Monetary Fund indicates that a high degree of uncertainty and challenges are likely to prevent a strong economic recovery in 2015. Notably, beginning in January, the Government of Israel stopped transferring clearance revenue collected on goods imported into the West Bank and Gaza to the Government of the State of Palestine. Such revenue represents about two thirds of net revenue and is essential to the Palestinian budget and economy. Consequently, according to the Ministry of Finance, wage payments and other public spending were cut.

21. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, unemployment remains high. At the end of 2014, 26.9 per cent of Palestinians were unemployed, an increase over the 2013 year-end rate of 23.4 per cent. The global average masks significant differences by sex, age and location. A total of 23.8 per cent of Palestinians males were unemployed, compared with 36.5 per cent of females. In addition, unemployment remains particularly high among young people, with 45.6 per cent of people between 20 and 24 years of age and 35 per cent of people between 25 and 29 years of age unemployed. Moreover, unemployment is significantly higher in the Gaza Strip (42.8 per cent) than in the West Bank (17.4 per cent).

Humanitarian developments

22. Between 1 May 2014 and 28 February 2015, 2,295 Palestinians were killed (2,245 in Gaza, including some 1,500 civilians; 50 civilians in the West Bank; overall, 569 children and 297 women) and 16,506 injured (11,233 in Gaza, including 3,436 children and 3,540 women, and 5,273 in the West Bank, including 1,011 children and 100 women) by the Israeli security forces. The vast majority of those deaths and injuries (2,219 deaths and 10,500 injuries) were a result of the conflict. During the reporting period, 85 Israelis (5 civilians as a result of the conflict and 12 civilians in the West Bank) were killed.

23. During the conflict, 11 UNRWA personnel were killed and 118 UNRWA installations, including 83 schools and 10 health centres, were damaged. On seven occasions, UNRWA schools being used as designated emergency shelters were either hit or struck by shells or other munitions in response to reports of firing from adjacent or nearby facilities. On three such occasions, persons sheltering at the schools were killed and many others injured.

24. In addition to fatalities and injuries, the conflict caused unprecedented displacement, with up to 500,000 Palestinians forced to flee their homes at the height of the conflict. Some 293,000 sought shelter in 85 UNRWA schools serving as designated emergency shelters. At the time of writing, UNRWA was continuing to provide shelter and basic services to almost 10,000 internally displaced persons living in 14 Agency-run collective centres. An estimated 100,000 homes were severely destroyed or damaged and severe damage was caused to public infrastructure, including the sole power plant in Gaza and critical water and sanitation infrastructure.

25. In the West Bank, demolitions of housing and livelihood assets continued during the reporting period, with 687 structures demolished in Area C and East

Jerusalem, displacing 1,330 persons, around 60 per cent of whom were children. At least 6,000 persons were affected by the demolitions.

26. According to the Israel Prison Service, 163 children (159 boys and 4 girls) between 14 and 17 years of age were being held in Israeli military detention for alleged security violations as at the end of January.

Movement, humanitarian access and operational space

27. In Gaza, restrictions on land and sea access imposed by the Government of Israel remained in place. The United Nations effectively engaged with the Government on humanitarian access during the conflict to allow for the unimpeded access of humanitarian supplies, but the Gaza Strip remained closed.

28. Access to and movement of Palestinians between most Palestinian urban centres in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, remained restricted during the reporting period. Those restrictions on Palestinian access to land, social services and economic opportunities in East Jerusalem and Area C hinder development efforts, resulting in deteriorating living conditions and increased vulnerability.

29. From May 2014 to February 2015, at least 276 incidents of delayed or denied access by United Nations and non-governmental organization staff members were reported at Israeli checkpoints. Around 76 of the incidents occurred as United Nations staff crossed the barrier on the Jerusalem periphery.

Barrier

30. The construction of the barrier continued in the north-west of the Bethlehem Governorate, as did rerouting works near Khirbet Jubara in Tulkarem and around Qalqiliya. The United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory established pursuant to General Assembly resolution ES-10/17 continued its outreach and claim intake activities. More than 46,000 claims and 550,000 supporting documents have been collected. Claim intake activities in the Tubas, Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, Salfit, Ramallah and Hebron Governorates have been completed, while outreach and claim intake activities in the Bethlehem Governorate are at an advanced stage.

III. United Nations response

31. Through the 2014 Strategic Response Plan, the United Nations and its partners continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian and protection assistance, including food assistance, to 1.9 million vulnerable Palestinians, in particular in Gaza. In addition, the United Nations and its partners coordinated and delivered humanitarian assistance, including food and shelter assistance, through the Gaza Crisis Appeal. The humanitarian strategies are aligned with the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza for 2014-2017 and United Nations development programming.

32. The United Nations implemented the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, a strategic planning framework that guides United Nations development programming for 2014-2016 and is aligned with the Palestinian National Development Plan for 2014-2016: State-building to Sovereignty. It places the Palestinian people at the centre of development programming with the aim of

enhancing human security, thereby laying the foundation for human development objectives in a context of occupation. To support recovery and reconstruction efforts in Gaza, the United Nations Support Plan for the Transformation of the Gaza Strip 2014-2016, which contributes to the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza for 2014-2017, is aimed at tackling governance and structural development issues.

A. Human and social development

33. During the reporting period, including during the conflict, the United Nations continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian assistance, including food assistance, to more than 1 million people, water and sanitation assistance to more than 1.5 million people and health and nutrition services to some 2.5 million people in the occupied Palestinian territory.

34. United Nations development programming focused on capacity development, infrastructure and the provision of direct assistance and basic services. As outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the work is centred on six strategic areas: economic empowerment, livelihoods, decent work and food security; governance, rule of law, justice and human rights; education; health care; social protection; and urban development, natural resource management and infrastructure. The financial resources required are estimated at $1.2 billion, of which $657 million had been mobilized at the time of writing.

35. Below are illustrative examples of the types of assistance provided by the United Nations.

Education

36. Nine United Nations agencies continued to support the implementation of the Education for All package for the State of Palestine, which is led by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to meet capacity-building needs in inclusive and child-friendly education and early childhood development. Work included supporting the Ministry in the opening of 47 preschool classrooms (33 in the West Bank and 14 in Gaza) and for the implementation of the new strategy on early childhood development. In addition, 77 pilot schools in the West Bank and Gaza (including 12 UNRWA schools) benefited from various education interventions, including school feeding programmes and capacity development programmes focusing on inclusive and child-friendly education, early childhood development and special educational needs. Before the conflict, United Nations agencies also improved access to education through the rehabilitation of 34 schools in the West Bank and 37 schools in Gaza, benefiting 34,000 children. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), along with its national partners, supported safe and protected access for some 6,900 children to schools in 18 locations, including checkpoints, gates and schools most vulnerable to settler violence and harassment by the Israel Defense Forces.

37. UNRWA provided free primary education to more than 290,000 children enrolled in 349 elementary and preparatory schools throughout the West Bank and Gaza. In Gaza, 86.5 per cent of the 252 UNRWA schools currently operate on a double-shift or triple-shift system (an increase from 71 per cent in 2013). The increase is the result of a continuously growing population and several UNRWA

school buildings being used as shelters for 10,000 internally displaced persons. As a result of the conflict, the beginning of the new school year for some 240,000 pupils in UNRWA schools was delayed by three weeks. UNRWA conducted psychosocial and recreational activities and counselling sessions to help children in their transition back to school.

38. UNICEF provided supplies and equipment and trained 50 staff in the early detection of hearing and speech difficulties, covering 8,000 children in government schools in Gaza. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) trained 25 pupils to be young educators on sexual and reproductive health for adolescents and young people. Those trained reached an additional 680 pupils through after-school activities throughout the West Bank. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to implement the Al Fakhoura Scholarship Programme for Gazan pupils, supporting 225 additional scholarships during the reporting period to bring the total number of scholarships provided to 445.

39. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established 12 libraries (10 in the West Bank and 2 in Gaza) accessible to persons with disabilities and trained 10 newly recruited librarians.

Health

40. UNRWA continued to be a major provider of health-care services, operating 42 health-care facilities, 22 primary health-care centres, a hospital and a non-communicable-disease referral centre in Gaza and the West Bank and employing more than 2,000 staff. Annually, an average of 26,000 Palestine refugees in the West Bank received assistance to meet hospital-care costs. During the conflict, UNRWA health services were extended to all Palestinians in Gaza.

41. UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) supported the Ministry of Health in procuring polio vaccines and coordinated a national immunization campaign, which benefited 639,481 children. UNICEF also trained 250 Ministry and UNRWA staff on advanced immunization skills. WHO conducted a mass public awareness campaign on Ebola virus disease.

42. UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of neonatal units in six government hospitals in Gaza and the West Bank and enhanced the skills of 285 health-care professionals in an effort to improve neonatal health care. It also continued to support the Ministry of Health in implementing the baby-friendly hospital initiative in 11 government hospitals and reached 4,554 high-risk women and their newborns through the postnatal home visits programme.

Water and sanitation

43. In the West Bank, UNDP improved access to natural resources through the construction or rehabilitation of 229 water cisterns and the rehabilitation of water networks and springs. In addition, 52 wastewater treatment units were installed, benefiting 52 households in four rural communities. In Gaza, UNDP completed the rehabilitation and expansion of a solid waste dumping site. UNICEF continued to improve access to water by supporting the Palestinian Water Authority and the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility in the construction and installation of a short-term low-volume seawater desalination plant in Gaza. It also provided water storage tanks to households in the access-restricted areas, which benefited at least

7,112 people, and completed construction work to improve access to adequate sanitation for at least 900 people. UNICEF supported improved access to water through water delivery and water network repairs, benefiting 64,099 people in the West Bank.

44. UNICEF also continued to support the water and sanitation in schools programme, which provided improved and sustainable access to safe water and sanitation for 44,342 pupils through the rehabilitation and construction of water and sanitation facilities, while addressing the special needs of pupils with disabilities in 91 schools in the West Bank and Gaza. It installed solar distillation units in three schools (1 in the West Bank and 2 in Gaza), providing around 800 pupils with clean drinking water.

Employment

45. United Nations agencies continued to support income-generating and self-employment opportunities for vulnerable Palestinians. UNDP targeted around 3,500 families throughout the West Bank and Gaza and focused on income-generating activities in microenterprise and small enterprise development. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), through 62 women's centres, focused on job opportunities in food processing and marketing. The programme directly benefited 761 women workers, and more than 43,400 women benefited from the psychosocial counselling, legal counselling, training and other services provided at the centres. Forty centres have reached financial sustainability. The activity also benefited 348 schools and more than 134,351 schoolchildren who received healthy and affordable snacks made by women from the community-based centres. UN-Women also provided training for 70 women in the West Bank and Gaza on designing and producing high-quality marketable Palestinian handicrafts. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported 27 cooperatives (including 6 women's cooperatives), helping 1,285 persons to achieve improved economic conditions through training to strengthen their marketing skills and the provision of tools to improve the marketability of their products.

46. The International Labour Organization continued to implement a programme to support livelihoods and job opportunities in the fishery sector in Gaza, which facilitated the development of a recovery plan and provided management training to cooperative members. In addition, UNDP supported some 520 farmers with asset replacement and business development services.

47. UNDP supported access to trade information by launching the first Palestinian trade portal in October 2014. It provides Palestinian businesses with information on trade agreements, conditions for export to specific countries, feasibility analysis, procedures and guidelines, in addition to allowing international partners to gain access to information on Palestinian businesses and products and services.

Targeted social protection

48. In Gaza, UNRWA distributed 305,424 food parcels to 21,286 Palestine refugee households through the social safety net programme, but was forced to suspend cash assistance owing to budgetary constraints in January. It also distributed 108,159 food parcels and $1.06 million in supplementary cash assistance to 9,509 Palestine refugee households through its social safety net programme in the West Bank. The

World Food Programme (WFP) continued to support the Government's social safety net programme, through which it provided more 211,020 people in the State of Palestine, both in the West Bank and Gaza, with food and food vouchers.

Culture

49. UNESCO continued to support the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in the West Bank and Gaza, with 12 historic sites renovated for public use and another 16 historic sites under renovation.

50. UNDP supported the establishment of the first Palestinian public library in the Old City of Jerusalem, including by providing equipment and furniture and undertaking rehabilitation work.

Food security and agriculture

51. United Nations agencies, including FAO, continued to improve water availability and management to enhance agricultural production in Area C of the West Bank. A total of 1,400 people in Area C have benefited from the rehabilitation of wells and 7,250 dunums of agricultural land are now again irrigated efficiently. FAO also rehabilitated five wells, benefiting 1,400 persons, and UNDP rehabilitated another 10, benefiting 300 new farms in highly marginalized areas. UNDP constructed 36 km of agricultural access roads and 120 water cisterns to enable supplementary irrigation.

52. UNDP finalized the development of an additional 1,976 dunums of land for marginalized farmers in areas of the West Bank that are in direct proximity to Israeli settlements or in the seam zones, bringing the total reclaimed land to some 13,200 dunums. It also supported land development activities to ensure the sustainable use of land.

53. Through the agriculture sector revitalization activities of FAO, 1,002 farmers received intensive training on pest management and global good agricultural practices certification.

Human rights, women, children and young people

54. Five United Nations agencies continued a joint programme to strengthen respect for the human rights of persons with disabilities through legislation, in compliance with the Palestinian Disability Law and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to mainstream considerations for persons with disabilities in schools and employment services.

55. United Nations agencies continued to support the special needs of women, including by tackling gender based violence. UN-Women provided capacity-building activities for officers of the Palestinian Civil Police in family protection units to respond to cases of violence against women with a view to safeguarding rights and due process. It continued to support the Mehwar Centre for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Families in the West Bank, which provided 355 legal advisory, consultation and representation services. UNRWA established referral systems in Gaza and the West Bank to tackle gender-based violence. More than 900 survivors of gender-based violence were identified and legal and psychosocial services were provided to more than 700 persons referred.

56. United Nations agencies conducted awareness-raising activities on various gender, youth and human rights issues. UNRWA reached more than 14,000 Palestine refugees in community-awareness and prevention activities relating to gender-based violence, children's and human rights, domestic violence, neglect and sexual abuse. UNESCO conducted an advocacy campaign on gender-based violence in 11 governorates of the West Bank, targeting young people from marginalized rural areas. With UNICEF support, more than 6,500 children vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation and in contact with the law benefited from child protection services provided by 14 child protection networks and 11 police family and juvenile protection units. In partnership with the Higher Council of Palestinian Youth and Sport and non-governmental organization partners, United Nations agencies reached 122,755 adolescents, who participated in and benefited from educational and recreation activities in safe spaces.

57. UNICEF continued to lead the inter-agency working group for the monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009). The working group continued to document grave violations and informed programmatic action and advocacy. Its documentation of the treatment of children in military detention also informed the continuing dialogue with the Israeli authorities, specifically in relation to the implementation of pilot-testing of the issuance of summonses in lieu of night arrests.

Environment, housing and urban development

58. UNDP continued to implement additional phases of the construction of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park through the provision of essential infrastructure services, including water, electricity, buildings and structures and telecommunications.

59. UNDP provided support for adequate housing to 160 low-income families in East Jerusalem, improved housing for 840 families in marginalized areas in the West Bank and access to renewable energy for 1,796 families in the West Bank.

B. United Nations system emergency assistance

60. The United Nations and humanitarian partners coordinated humanitarian assistance during the conflict, including provision of water, food assistance, shelter and non-food items to 340,000 displaced persons at the height of the conflict in United Nations and government shelters, in addition to support to internally displaced persons with host families through the distribution of humanitarian aid. Psychosocial support was provided to thousands of children and caregivers in shelters. UNRWA provided in-kind food commodities to more than 830,000 Palestine refugees and turned its facilities into designated emergency shelters. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs coordinated the humanitarian response on behalf of the international community.

61. The 2015 Strategic Response Plan is seeking $705 million, of which nearly 80 per cent is for Gaza, nearly double the amount requested for 2014.

62. In addition, the UNRWA Emergency Appeal for 2015 is requesting $414.4 million to meet the needs of some 2 million Palestine refugees in Gaza and

the West Bank. Most of the funding requested (88 per cent) is for Gaza. The Emergency Appeal for 2014 mobilized $127 million of the $300 million requested, with most of the funds mobilized allocated to Gaza.

63. In Gaza, shelter remains the primary humanitarian need, with some 100,000 persons remaining displaced as a result of the damage and destruction of housing stemming from the conflict and the slow pace of reconstruction.

64. The energy situation in the Gaza Strip remains extremely fragile. During the reporting period, the United Nations, with contributions from Turkey, put in place a safety net to replenish the on-site reserves for essential services (e.g. health and water/sanitation). Nevertheless, the current situation highlights the need to develop a structural solution to the energy problems facing Gaza.

65. In the immediate aftermath of the conflict, and at the request of United Nations entities, the United Nations Mine Action Service surveyed and cleared 105 key infrastructure sites that had been damaged or destroyed, including the Gaza power plant, to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Emergency food support

66. In Gaza, UNRWA provided half of the population (868,000 refugees) with food aid. UNRWA and WFP provided food parcels to more than 340,000 individuals per day at the peak of the conflict. They also jointly undertook an exceptional distribution of basic food rations targeting families (620,000 individuals) who typically are not eligible to receive regular food assistance from them. In total, WFP reached more than 1.4 million people in Gaza with food assistance and provided vouchers to an additional 300,000 internally displaced persons.

67. In the West Bank, UNRWA and WFP continued their joint assistance programme for marginalized Bedouins and herders, distributing food to more than 30,000 individuals. In response to a winter storm in January, WFP distributed food to some 500 people. UNRWA, through a partnership with WFP, introduced electronic food vouchers throughout the West Bank, benefiting 45,000 individuals. Through the programme, some $2.4 million was spent on food and staples at local shops.

Emergency income generation

68. In Gaza, the UNRWA job creation programme provided 23,419 jobs, while more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs were provided through UNRWA construction projects, accounting for 9.4 per cent of the employed workforce in the Gaza Strip.

69. In the West Bank, UNRWA provided emergency cash-for-work support to some 6,000 households (35,900 individuals) in 19 Palestine refugee camps. This provided a cash injection of around $7.5 million to food-insecure households. Owing to a shortage of funds, UNRWA no longer operates the cash-for-work programme outside the camps, but instead supports non-camp refugees with electronic food vouchers.

Emergency health support

70. Through UNRWA support, 18,292 Palestine refugees in Gaza received individual psychosocial counselling, while 10,806 group counselling sessions were conducted. In addition, 37,549 public awareness sessions were held in schools, health centres and other facilities. During the conflict, health focal points in each UNRWA designated emergency shelter and collective centres serving 300,000 internally displaced persons conducted health awareness campaigns to control and prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases and undertook 129,662 medical consultations.

71. The UNRWA emergency health programme in the West Bank supported six mobile health clinics operating in 56 locations with poor access to primary health services. The clinics served some 121,000 individuals and delivered close to 130,000 patient consultations throughout the year. In addition, UNRWA supported 49 vulnerable Bedouin and herder communities in Area C with mobile community mental health services.

72. WHO facilitated the delivery of critical life-saving drugs and medical disposables in Gaza. It also provided urgently needed technical assistance, medical equipment and spare parts, especially for generators and medical equipment damaged as a result of the unstable power supply and the frequent blackouts caused by fuel shortages.

73. UNFPA provided the Ministry of Health with critical medication and supplies to sustain reproductive health services at maternities and primary health-care clinics in Gaza. It supported mobile health teams serving displaced persons with antenatal and postnatal care, benefiting 1,380 people, including 676 pregnant women in shelters. It also distributed 882 dignity kits to internally displaced women and girls in host communities.

74. UNFPA supported national partners in providing psychosocial support to 105 health-care professionals in the primary health centres in Gaza and 3,883 persons from the most affected families.

Emergency water and sanitation support

75. UNRWA supported water and sanitation and health-care providers operating inside and outside the Palestine refugee camps in Gaza with fuel and other supplies needed for critical operations and managed solid waste collection in all eight camps. In 2014, more than 10 million litres of fuel were provided by UNRWA, including 6.3 million litres of diesel distributed to health-care and water and sanitation providers. During the conflict, UNRWA provided potable and non-potable water to designated emergency shelters.

76. Through its partners, UNICEF delivered safe drinking water to 81,500 people using tankers. In addition, more than 8,000 people had access to water filling stations during the first three months after the conflict.

77. Through support from UNICEF, 411,612 people in Gaza benefited from improved access to water through water network repairs, including as a result of the provision of spare parts for generators used by the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility, the establishment of water filling stations and the installation of domestic water storage tanks in the access-restricted areas. Another 175,768 people benefited

from wastewater network repairs, the rehabilitation of septic tanks and the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in those areas.

78. UNICEF and WFP distributed 14,000 vouchers, enabling 84,000 people to have access to basic hygiene supplies in the first few weeks after the ceasefire.

Emergency agriculture support

79. In response to the conflict, FAO distributed fodder and water tanks to 5,000 livestock herders and material to safeguard the assets of 240 herders.

80. In Area C, FAO provided 2,412 livestock herders with material and training to mitigate the risk of economic shock, distributed equipment for the safeguarding of assets to 1,800 herders and rehabilitated cisterns to the benefit of 1,056 herders. In addition, it provided training and cash transfers for land rehabilitation to 117 farmers.

Emergency education support

81. Following the conflict, United Nations agencies supported children as they returned to school. The United Nations Mine Action Service surveyed and cleared all UNRWA schools and 21 government schools of explosive remnants of war, allowing more than 250,000 children to return safely to school. UNRWA implemented a three-phase emergency education programme, focusing on providing safe spaces and ensuring the psychosocial well-being of children as part of their transition back to school. UNICEF procured and distributed education supplies, benefiting 130,000 children, and teaching aid and recreational kits for 395 schools.

82. UNICEF supported the training of 11,000 teachers and other education personnel on classroom management and psychosocial support to prepare them for the new school year. To respond to the special needs of younger children, it distributed early childhood development materials to 11,300 preschoolers.

Emergency housing support

83. The United Nations Office for Project Services established a materials monitoring unit to coordinate and ensure end-use monitoring of the construction material intended to support the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism.

84. The United Nations Mine Action Service and UNDP worked to remove rubble resulting from the conflict. The Service cleared and safely removed explosive remnants of war from 84 areas and UNDP removed more than 60,000 tons of rubble of a total of 2.2 million tons.

85. At the time of writing, UNRWA was continuing to provide shelter and basic services to almost 8,000 internally displaced persons living in 13 Agency-run collective centres. It provided transitional shelter cash assistance, such as rental subsidies, to 7,653 families (worth $7.1 million) and cash assistance to make small shelter repairs to 69,717 families (worth $79.5 million). In addition, UNDP provided $8 million in cash assistance to more than 4,000 non-refugee families displaced by the conflict, allowing them to have access to temporary shelter while their homes were being reconstructed.

86. In the West Bank, UNRWA provided cash assistance to more than 3,370 individuals after their homes were demolished by the Israeli authorities.

87. Through support from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 280 poor households, 100 of which were headed by women, moved into houses newly constructed or renovated in Gaza and West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

C. United Nations system support to Palestinian institutions

88. At the request of the Government, the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union, together with the Government, embarked on a detailed needs assessment to provide a comprehensive assessment of the damages, losses and recovery needs in the governance, productive, infrastructure and social sectors, following the escalation of hostilities in Gaza, to inform recovery planning and prioritization of interventions.

89. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued to work with the Palestinian authorities, the Independent Commission for Human Rights and civil society to ensure that the commitments set forth in the Palestinian National Development Plan for 2014-2016: State-building to Sovereignty were implemented in accordance with the new legal commitments stemming from the Government's accession to various human rights treaties. The Office, the Commission and several United Nations agencies embarked on an intensive programme to build the capacity of and support ministries, including through substantive training on the provisions of the treaties and on the requirements for effective monitoring and reporting as the ministries prepared their reform programme and compiled their initial reports for the Geneva-based treaty bodies.

90. In addition, UN-Women continued to support the Commission in monitoring women's access to justice in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Commission published its first report in June 2014, highlighting the challenges facing women in gaining access to justice and the need to apply the Criminal Code and other laws relating to women's rights, in addition to women's right to defence and legal representation.

91. WFP supported the Civil Defence in building capacity in the area of emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction, including the development of an information management system that integrates a disaster preparedness web portal to raise public awareness of risks, a smartphone tool for emergency needs assessments and geospatial data infrastructure. The tools were handed over to the Civil Defence to enhance and expand its ability to coordinate and respond to disasters.

92. The United Nations Office for Project Services continued to support the Palestinian Civil Police, the national security forces, the Presidential Guard and other security services through institutional capacity-building initiatives, including training programmes, equipment procurement, the development of information management systems and the provision of physical infrastructure and equipment. It also supported the Ministry of the Interior in the design of a comprehensive institutional capacity-building programme covering the full range of the Ministry's functions.

93. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, building upon their previous collaboration, continued to strengthen the institutional and functional capacity of the Palestinian Shippers' Council. It also provided the Palestinian

private and public sectors with advisory services and technical knowledge in the realm of trade facilitation.

D. Private sector development

94. UNRWA financed 13,811 loans valued at $19.4 million to Palestinian businesses and households in 2014. Women and young people received 30 per cent and 35 per cent of the loans, respectively. The self-sufficiency and sustainability of the programme were affected by the conflict, as evidenced by a net loss of $739,400 in Gaza, whereas in the West Bank the programme earned a net income of $280,821 from its microfinance operations.

E. Coordination of United Nations assistance

95. Under the auspices of the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process/United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, collaboration and coordination between the numerous donor and United Nations forums were strengthened during the reporting period. The humanitarian country team met regularly to agree on humanitarian advocacy and response measures. With the support of the Coordination Unit within the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the United Nations country team continued to coordinate its programming through the development of the United Nations Development Action Framework in alignment with the priorities of the Palestinian National Development Plan for 2014-2016: State-building to Sovereignty. Efforts to forge constructive partnerships between the United Nations, the Government and the broader aid community were strengthened. The United Nations continued the preparation of an Ad Hoc Liaison Committee report, strategies and guidance for development and humanitarian work in Gaza, East Jerusalem and Area C and, together with other humanitarian actors, the development of the Gaza Crisis Appeal, the 2015 Strategic Response Plan and the United Nations Support Plan for the Reconstruction of the Gaza Strip 2014-2016.

IV. Donor response to the crisis

Budgetary and fiscal support

96. In 2014, the Government struggled to meet its financial obligations, with expenditure slightly higher than expected and revenue less than projected. It accumulated considerable arrears during the year, particularly to the private sector and the pension system, and had increased its stock of debt to domestic banks to $1.7 billion by January 2015.

Donor coordination

97. The Coordination Unit within the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process has increasingly been called upon to support the United Nations system and prepares substantive contributions for various forums, such as the twice-yearly meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee. The Unit also works to coordinate policy positions and address impediments to the implementation of programmes with key donors and outside actors.

98. The local aid coordination structure continued to serve as a key forum for donors and the State of Palestine. The coordination of humanitarian assistance and advocacy continued to be led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs during the reporting period.

99. The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee met once during the reporting period, on 22 September 2014 in New York.

V. Unmet needs

100. Of the $5.4 billion pledged in Cairo for the recovery and reconstruction of Gaza, some 23 per cent has been disbursed.

101. Given the continued needs, the 2015 Strategic Response Plan is requesting $705 million. To date, 21 per cent has been raised. Additional support is also urgently needed for the UNRWA core budget, which faces a predicted shortfall of $81.3 million for 2015.

102. United Nations agencies are seeking $1.2 billion to support development programming in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, of which 53 per cent has been funded to date. The UNRWA Emergency Appeal for 2015 is seeking $414.4 million to cover the most pressing humanitarian needs of Palestine refugees. UNRWA estimates that $720 million is needed to allow families to repair their homes and to provide ongoing rental subsidies.

VI. Challenges

103. During the reporting period, the conflict resulted in unprecedented losses and destruction, thereby increasing humanitarian and reconstruction needs. While the temporary Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism is functioning, reconstruction is occurring at a slower pace than needed owing to limited donor funding. The Government must be allowed to assume its full responsibilities in Gaza.

104. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, restrictions on movement and access, demolitions of Palestinian infrastructure and associated displacement of Palestinians have all increased. Furthermore, significant settlement activity is continuing, heightening tensions on the ground. Most importantly, the absence of a credible political horizon continues to negatively affect the operating environment.

VII. Conclusions

105. The operational context for the work of the United Nations during the reporting period was increasingly challenging owing to the conflict and the continued threats to the livelihoods of Palestinians, especially demolitions, while the persistent restrictions continued to pose formidable obstacles to development. The United Nations will continue to work towards the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1850 (2008) and 1860 (2009), an end to the occupation that began in 1967 and the establishment of a sovereign, democratic, viable and contiguous Palestinian State, existing side by side in peace with a secure Israel.

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Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2014/2, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution, including on the promotion of accountability at the national and global levels and on progress in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to the Council's substantive session of 2015. Accordingly, the present report aims at providing an overview of progress in implementing the Action Plan, including of entity-specific remedial action plans, lessons learned and next steps, and in mainstreaming gender equality in common programming processes of the United Nations at the country level, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other planning frameworks. The report also includes recommendations for further progress to be considered by the Economic and Social Council.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/2, adopted on 12 June 2014, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its substantive session of 2015, a report on the implementation of the resolution, including on the promotion of accountability in the work of the United Nations system to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women at both the national and global levels and on progress made in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

2. The report is organized into five sections. Section I contains the introduction; section II provides an overview of progress in the implementation of the Action Plan; section III assesses the progress of the United Nations entities in promoting the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all operational mechanisms, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other development frameworks; section IV presents an overview of remaining gaps and challenges; and section V includes recommendations for accelerated action for consideration by the Council.

3. The report draws on information and data provided by 62 United Nations entities included in Action Plan reporting, on the annual reports of resident coordinators annual reports for 2014 available at the time of writing, the annual reports of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other secondary sources.

II. Promoting system-wide accountability for United Nations work on gender equality and the empowerment of women

4. In the third year of implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, relevant information was reported by 62 entities, including the Secretariat and its offices and departments, of the United Nations system.[1] The reporting revealed strengths, challenges and trends in the work of the United Nations system to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Reporting indicated that the Action Plan framework had positively catalysed progress in gender mainstreaming. Overall, the proportion of ratings in the meets and exceeds requirements categories increased from 31 per cent to 51 per cent between 2012, the first year of reporting, and 2014 (see figure I). Further, during the same period, the indicators of gender-responsive auditing, knowledge generation and communication and strategic planning, saw an increase of 32 percentage points or more (see figure IV).

[1] Reports were not submitted by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations University, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. As only one of the six training and research institutes — the United Nations System Staff College — reported, a separate analysis of the category was not carried out, but its results are included in the global analysis.

5. Notably, 37 out of 62 reporting entities (59 per cent of all reporting entities) met or exceeded the requirements for the gender policy indicator in 2014, an increase from 48 per cent in 2013. An additional nine entities have committed to developing policies in 2015. Therefore, by the end of 2015, almost 75 per cent of United Nations entities will have such policies in place, which is significant given that gender policies constitute a key driver of institutional change. Entities with gender policies are performing better than those without: the 38 entities meeting or exceeding requirements for the gender policy indicator are, on average, meeting or exceeding requirements for 10 out of 15 indicators, compared to entities without gender policies meeting or exceeding requirements for an average of five indicators.

6. In contrast, between 2012 and 2014, relatively weaker performance in the areas of capacity assessment and development, financial allocation and tracking and gender architecture and parity reinforced the need for more intensified implementation and also made it clear that, without persistent commitment from senior leadership, the standards are not likely to be met by the 2017 deadline. Notably, 61 per cent of entities, 10 per cent more than in 2012, stated that senior management constituted one of the chief drivers of positive performance.

7. Qualitatively, Action Plan reporting showed steady improvement.[2] In 2014, approximately 66 per cent of remedial action plans qualified as satisfactory or better, compared with 62 per cent in 2013. The UN-Women help desk reviewed all reports to control for quality and accuracy of ratings,[3] suggesting revisions for 47 per cent of the reports, a decrease of almost 20 percentage points as compared to 2013, which indicates strengthened understanding of Action Plan standards and requirements. In addition, 80 per cent of recommendations from the help desk resulted in corresponding revisions.

A. Comparative analysis of overall United Nations system performance, by year

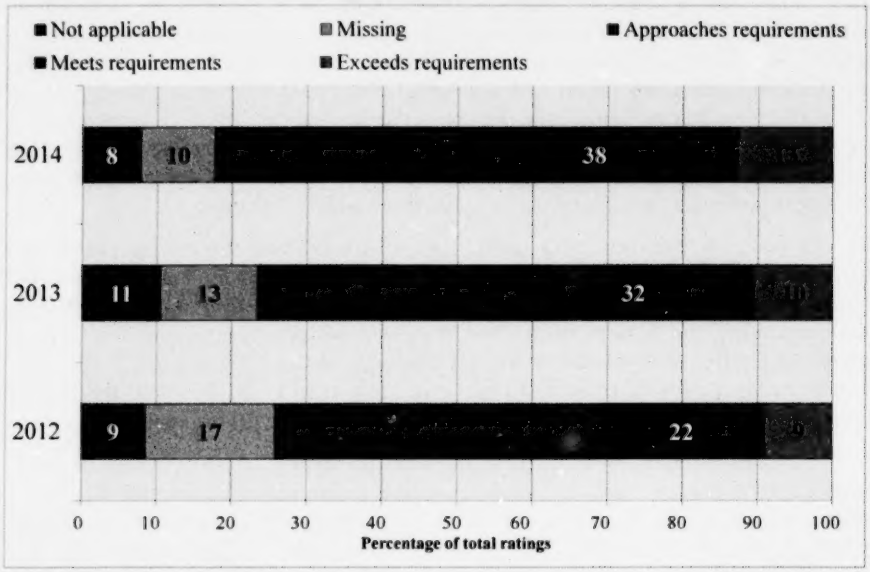
8. For comparability, the report presents results by year, performance indicator, entity type[4] and areas of strengths and improvement.

[2] In 2014, the online reporting system was enhanced to require substantiation with evidence for each sub-component of the indicators comprising multiple parts.

[3] A separate review analysis was carried out by the United Nations Evaluation Group on performance indicator 5, gender-responsive evaluation.

[4] Similar to 2012 and 2013, entities were grouped into four categories based on the standard United Nations organizational breakdown: funds and programmes, Secretariat, specialized entities and technical entities.

Figure I
Comparative analysis of overall ratings for the United Nations system, by year



Note: Percentages reflected in figure I are based upon all ratings reported, including "not applicable".

9. Overall, between 2012 and 2014, system-wide performance steadily shifted upward, from missing and approaches requirements ratings to meets and exceeds requirements ratings (figure I). In 2014, 51 per cent of ratings for the United Nations system were in the meets or exceeds requirements categories, an increase of nine percentage points since 2013 and 20 percentage points since 2012, constituting an average annual increase of 10 percentage points. The meets requirements rating registered the largest growth, from 22 per cent in 2012 to 38 per cent in 2014. The exceeds requirements rating for 2014 registered a three percentage point gain over 2013, tripling the gain between 2012 and 2013. Despite such gains, however, entities exceeded requirements in few instances (13 per cent).

B. Comparative analysis, by entity type

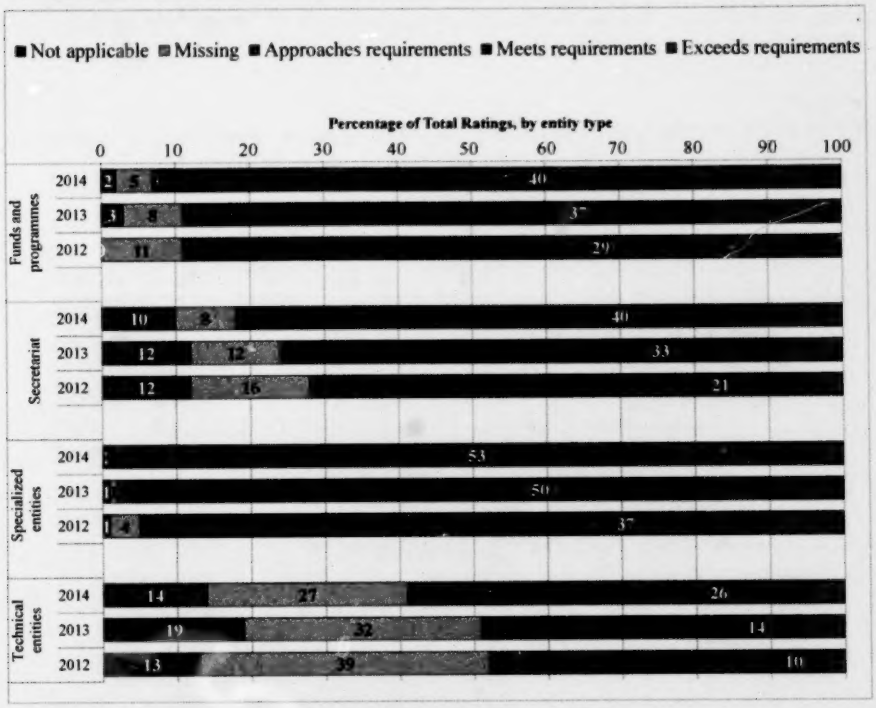
10. As shown in figure II, all entity types registered an improvement since 2013, with a progressive shift towards meets and exceeds requirements ratings from approaches requirements and missing.

11. Specialized entities continue to outperform other entity types, with 76 per cent of their ratings falling into the meets or exceeds requirements categories, at least 15 percentage points more than for other entity types, and a 28 percentage point increase since 2012. They also registered the largest gain (10 percentage points) in meeting and exceeding requirements ratings since 2013. As of 2014, all specialized entities met or exceeded requirements on six performance indicators, double the number of indicators met or exceeded in 2013: capacity assessment, coherence, gender-responsive performance management, monitoring and reporting, programme

review and strategic planning. Given such trends, specialized entities are well positioned to meet Action Plan requirements by 2017.

12. The funds and programmes, with a total of 61 per cent in the meets and exceeds requirements categories in 2014, registered steady gains of 7 percentage points since 2013 and 14 percentage points since 2012. In addition, all Funds and Programmes entities have met or exceeded requirements for the coherence indicator.

Figure II
Comparative analysis of ratings, by year and entity type



13. The Secretariat has similarly made gains since 2012, now reporting 50 per cent of all ratings as "meets" or "exceeds", up from 27 per cent in 2012. Meets requirements ratings showed the largest gains, from 21 per cent in 2012 to 40 per cent in 2014. While exceeds requirements ratings for the Secretariat increased by 4 percentage points between 2012 and 2014, its proportion of such ratings trails those of the specialized entities and the funds and programmes by at least 10 percentage points. Similar to the funds and programmes, all Secretariat entities have met or exceeded requirements for one indicator, gender-responsive auditing.

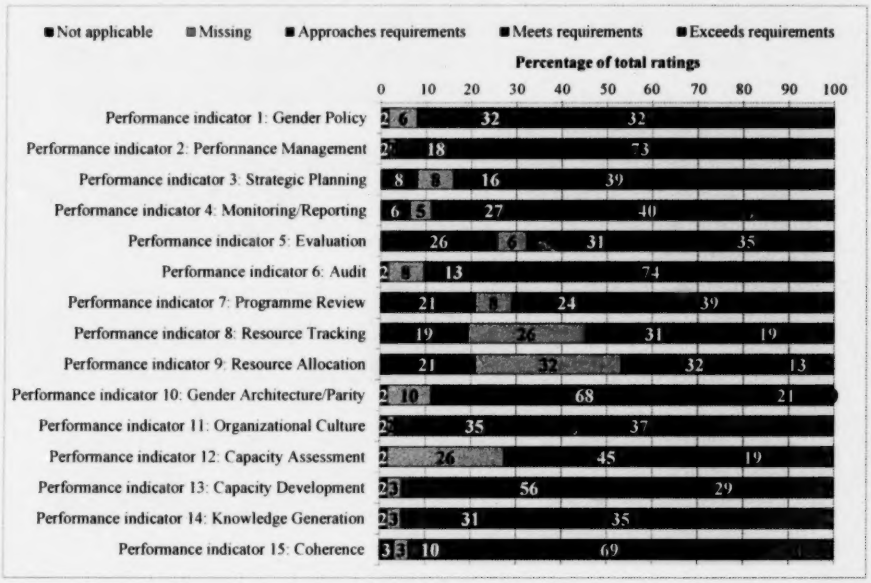
14. Entities with a technical focus registered the weakest performance among all entity types. For the third consecutive year, meets and exceeds requirements ratings comprised 30 per cent or less of all ratings. In addition, as a group, technical entities have not met requirements for any of the performance indicators. Nevertheless, over the three-year period, they registered a steady increase in the rate of improvement, with a 7 percentage point gain in the meets and exceeds requirements ratings

between 2012 and 2013, and an 11 percentage point increase between 2013 and 2014.

C. Comparative analysis, by performance indicator (PI): strengths and areas for improvement

15. When broken down by performance indicator, progress appears more uneven. Figure III provides a breakdown of all 2014 ratings, for all entities, by performance indicator. Figure IV provides a comparison of meets and exceeds requirements ratings, by indicator, for all three reporting years, ranked in descending order by their 2014 performance.

Figure III
2014 analysis of ratings for the United Nations system, by performance indicator


Not applicable
Missing
Approaches requirements
Meets requirements
Exceeds requirements
Percentage of total ratings
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Performance indicator 1: Gender Policy
Performance indicator 2: Performance Management
Performance indicator 3: Strategic Planning
Performance indicator 4: Monitoring/Reporting
Performance indicator 5: Evaluation
Performance indicator 6: Audit
Performance indicator 7: Programme Review
Performance indicator 8: Resource Tracking
Performance indicator 9: Resource Allocation
Performance indicator 10: Gender Architecture/Parity
Performance indicator 11: Organizational Culture
Performance indicator 12: Capacity Assessment
Performance indicator 13: Capacity Development
Performance indicator 14: Knowledge Generation
Performance indicator 15: Coherence

16. Figure III shows that ratings of meeting or exceeding requirements accounted for at least 50 per cent for 8 of the 15 performance indicators in 2014. For resource tracking, resource allocation and capacity assessment, 25 per cent or more of the entities were rated as missing, indicating that, while entities see the indicator as relevant to their work, more consistent and focused attention is needed. In addition, ratings of "not applicable" for evaluation, resource tracking, resource allocation and programme review reached 19 per cent or more, which was more than double the average of 8 per cent for the rating of "not applicable" in 2014.

Strengths

17. Figure IV shows that, in the third year of Action Plan implementation, the United Nations system as a whole registered progress for 14 of the 15 performance indicators. Exceptionally, the coherence indicator witnessed a decline in performance, mainly owing to stricter application of reporting requirements.

Notwithstanding this exception, the coherence indicator has registered the best performance among all 15 Action Plan indicators since 2012 and system-wide performance remains the highest in this area.

18. In 2014, the coherence indicator registered 89 per cent of entities as receiving a rating of meets or exceeds requirements. Following coherence, gender-responsive performance management and gender-responsive auditing registered the highest levels of compliance, with 75 per cent or more of all ratings in the meets or exceeds requirements categories.

19. The gender-responsive performance management indicator registered 81 per cent of entities as meeting or exceeding" requirements, up from 75 per cent in 2013 and 59 per cent in 2012. Secretariat-wide compliance on this indicator accounted for the large gains realized between 2012 and 2013, gains that were sustained for the most recent reporting period.

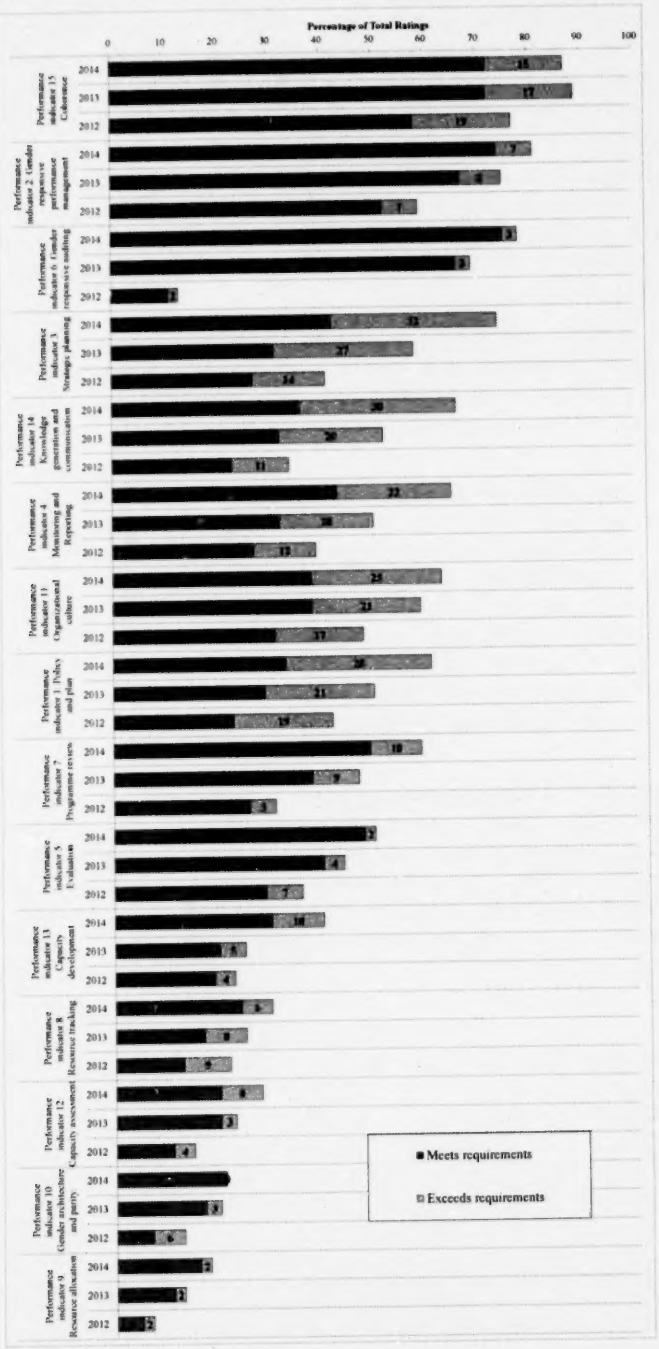
20. Indicators on strategic planning, monitoring and reporting, capacity development, knowledge generation and communication and gender policies registered the greatest performance gains since 2013, with total ratings for meets and exceeds requirements increasing between 11 and 16 percentage points from year to year.[5]

21. The strategic planning indicator witnessed the greatest progress since 2013, recording a 16 percentage point increase in the meets or exceeds requirements categories, with 74 per cent of entities currently meeting or exceeding requirements. This implies that almost three quarters of United Nations entities are including more than one results statement and indicator on gender equality in their strategic planning documents, thereby significantly enhancing accountability. Substantial gains were made for the monitoring and reporting indicator, where entities must report on results regarding gender equality and women's empowerment in relation to their central strategic planning documents in order to meet requirements for that indicator.

22. The capacity development indicator also registered significant progress. In 2014, 40 per cent of entities met or exceeded requirements in this domain, representing a 15 percentage point increase over 2013. In addition, 19 entities have committed to implementing, in 2015, the "I Know Gender" e-course, developed by UN-Women for non-gender specialists, thereby laying the foundation for staff across the United Nations system to be better equipped to deliver on gender mainstreaming mandates.

[5] In order to present strengths and areas for improvement more accurately, percentages in Figure IV were calculated omitting "not applicable" ratings. Therefore, percentages for meets and exceeds requirements will slightly differ from those presented in figure I, which bases percentages on all ratings, not applicable included.

Figure IV
Comparative analysis of meets and exceeds requirements ratings, by indicator, for all three years of reporting, ranked in descending order by 2014 performance



23. The knowledge generation and communication indicator experienced an increase of 14 percentage points between 2013 and 2014 in the "meets" or "exceeds" categories, reaching 66 per cent in 2014. These gains reflect the efforts of several entities to more systematically document and share knowledge on gender equality, including through new reports, the development and promotion of dedicated websites and pages, social media campaigns and numerous advocacy and awareness-raising events. In addition, there was an increase in the number of entities formally including gender equality as a component of their communication plans.

Areas for improvement

24. In 2014, the poorest performance areas for the United Nations system with regard to the Action Plan remained resource allocation, gender architecture and parity, capacity assessment and resource tracking, for which 30 per cent or less of the entities were rated as meeting or "exceeding" requirements. Not a single entity was rated as exceeding performance requirements for the gender architecture and parity indicator.

25. Resource allocation registered the weakest performance among all Action Plan indicators for the three consecutive years of reporting, despite minor improvements between 2013 and 2014, registering a 5 percentage point increase in the "meeting" and "exceeding" categories. In addition, remedial action plans for this indicator do not hold promise for improving performance by the 2017 deadline and, therefore, urgent attention is needed to support performance.

26. Gender architecture and parity remains a particularly weak area across the United Nations system, with only 21 per cent of ratings falling into the "meets" or "exceeds" categories, and a very slow rate of progress of a 1 percentage point increase in entities rated as "meets" or "exceeds" requirements from 2013 to 2014. This performance indicator includes three components:

(a) Regarding gender focal point systems, although 92 per cent of entities have a gender focal point or equivalent in place, only 61 per cent of them are at the P-4 level and above, despite repeated calls from the General Assembly in its resolutions for focal points to be designated at a sufficiently high level and enjoy full access to senior management. Further, only 66 per cent of gender focal points have terms of reference in writing and only 47 per cent devote 20 per cent or more of their time to functions related to gender equality.

(b) With respect to the equal representation of women at all levels, progress remains slow. Echoing results in 2013, 77 per cent of entities reported that they had not achieved equal representation of women at the P-4 level and above. The results illustrate a continuing challenge for the United Nations system to counteract the inverse relationship that exists between seniority and the representation of women;

(c) Concerning adequate resourcing, only 23 per cent of entities reported having a fully resourced gender unit or equivalent, thereby pointing to a particular concern. Notwithstanding the progress achieved, the continued inadequacy of both human and financial resources can be expected to jeopardize the rate of progress, especially in areas which represent more entrenched challenges.

27. With respect to capacity assessment, system-wide performance against the indicator remains relatively poor, although slightly improved in 2014: only 28 per

cent of entities meet or exceed ratings, up from 23 per cent in 2013. However, significant progress could be made with the systematic application and adaptation of the capacity assessment tool developed UN-Women Training Centre throughout the system.

28. Finally, resource tracking registered limited gains, with an increase from 25 per cent to 30 per cent between 2013 and 2014 in the meets and exceeds requirements categories. Encouragingly, however, remedial actions for resource tracking seemed robust. For example, 18 entities are currently seeking to undertake resource tracking, of which 8 are planning to adopt a gender marker system. In addition, 9 out of 33 Secretariat departments noted that tracking resources for gender equality and the empowerment of women ought to be done centrally through a common platform. Accordingly, of the 12 entities that rated this indicator as "not applicable", 10 are Secretariat departments. Improved understanding of the resources being spent on gender equality can subsequently assist entities in setting and meeting more realistic financial benchmarks, thus helping to improve performance in all areas.

D. Remedial action plans

29. Remedial action plans, articulated in terms of timelines, responsibility for follow-up action and resources required to achieve progress, delineate the steps that entities plan to take to improve performance for each specific indicator.

30. Given the 2017 deadline to meet or exceed requirements for all Action Plan indicators, the number of individual activities to improve performance outlined by all entities increased from 91 in 2013 to 170 in 2014. Similar to 2012 and 2013, capacity assessment, capacity development, resource tracking and policies comprised the areas most targeted for enhanced activity by entities. Regarding responsibility for follow-up, in 79 per cent of cases where information was provided, staff other than the gender focal point or unit were designated as being responsible for follow-up action, which indicates a broadening of the web of engagement and responsibility for gender mainstreaming within entities.

31. Entities identified resources required to further improve performance. They estimated that approximately $18 million would be required, a sum that is not particularly large considering the number of entities participating in the Action Plan. In 2014, similar to 2013, the largest share of resource requirement (22 per cent) was directed at the area of gender architecture and parity. Gender-responsive auditing (16 per cent) and policy and plan (11 per cent) ranked second and third, respectively, in the share of resources required.

E. Lessons learned and next steps

32. Lessons learned in three years of Action Plan implementation include:

(a) Sustained coordination by UN-Women effectively drives progress and engagement and also supports the capacity-building, communication and networking required to implement the Action Plan;

(b) Success is predicated significantly on the dedication of senior management to gender equality and the empowerment of women and on their consistent commitment and visible messaging that "sets the tone at the top";

(c) Adequate human and financial resources to support gender units and focal points within and across entities, together with sufficient capacities for gender mainstreaming work, are critical for progress on the Action Plan performance indicators. In 2014, 24 per cent of entities stated that the lack of sufficient resources for gender equality constituted one of the greatest impediments to progress for their entity in the area of gender equality. When capacity-building activities are continuous, gender equality work can be effectively sustained;

(d) The development and updating of gender policies strongly correlates with and effectively drives progress in gender mainstreaming;

(e) Strengthened and unambiguous gender analysis in strategic planning documents serves as the foundation for longer-term sustainability;

(f) The creation of wider networks for the promotion of gender mainstreaming within and across entities is essential not only to the decentralization of responsibility for gender equality but also to ensuring the long-term sustainability of results;

(g) A common understanding of standards and requirements for gender mainstreaming and the publishing of results on the status of implementation of a common framework can lead to healthy competition between entities, reinvigorating efforts to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women across the United Nations system;

(h) Strong and explicit endorsement of the Action Plan initiative by intergovernmental bodies significantly bolsters participation and compliance with the framework;

33. Suggested next steps to intensify efforts for ensuring that the United Nations system meets all requirements by 2017 include:

(a) Continued development of gender policies, strategies and platforms aligned with the Action Plan to cover all entities, as well as common approaches to implementation for some Action Plan indicators (i.e., a central system for tracking resources), are needed to improve the performance of small and technically-focused entities and of the department and offices within the Secretariat;

(b) Significant financial and staff investment in promoting the equal representation of women, especially the implementation of temporary special measures as mandated by article 4 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, strengthened work-life balance, mobility and facilitative policies, and increased accountability of senior departmental management for reaching gender balance targets;

(c) Intensified and coordinated development of gender marker systems for entity and system-wide capacity development, a help desk, development of training materials, continued consultation through the Financial and Budget Network of the High-level Committee on Management and systematic efforts with the Secretariat to embed tracking mechanisms into common platforms such as the enterprise resource planning system, Umoja;

(d) Continued implementation of mandatory introductory gender equality courses for all staff and intensified application of gender capacity assessment tools;

(e) Wider knowledge-sharing relating to all Action Plan indicators, including through a knowledge gateway that houses supporting documents, good practices and guidance and capacity-building documents for each indicator of the Action Plan;

(f) Increased attention to entity-to-entity peer reviews, which function as accountability and lesson-learning exercises.

III. Gender mainstreaming into operational mechanisms

34. 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Comprehensive reviews of the implementation of both documents were undertaken at the national and regional levels. A global report on the review submitted to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women showed that, while opportunities have expanded for women and girls in some parts of world, progress has been unacceptably slow and the most marginalized women and girls are being left behind (E/CN.6/2015/3).

35. The findings of the review constitute an invaluable source of information and guidance towards the definition of the development framework that will guide the international agenda over the next 15 years. The review process has provided guidance to the entities of the United Nations system, including its funds and programmes, in contributing, within their mandate, to the full implementation of the strategic objectives of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It has also given the United Nations system the opportunity to reinvigorate political will and commitment, strengthen the evidence and knowledge base, enhance social and resource mobilization and revitalize public engagement and solidarity around gender equality and women's rights. In this connection, the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the High-level Committee on Programmes coordinated a joint statement of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination joint statement, through which the Chief Executives committed to systematic gender mainstreaming, investment, results and accountability.

36. In the outcome of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Member States pledged, in a political declaration, to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in order to achieve concrete results towards the full realization of gender equality and women's empowerment by 2030 (see E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10, chap. I, sect. C). The strategies towards this aim include strengthening and increasing support for institutional mechanisms, targeting the transformation of discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes, significantly increasing investment to close resource gaps, strengthening accountability for the implementation of existing commitments and enhancing capacity-building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation.

37. The review process coincides with the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. Member States have made a strong call for the agenda to be firmly anchored in the human rights principles of universality, equality and non-discrimination, participation and

inclusion and accountability. The report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970 and Corr. 1), which was confirmed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/309, as the main basis for negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, included the recommendation for a distinct, comprehensive and transformative goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. In addition, cross-cutting gender equality targets are part of the other proposed sustainable development goals and of the means of implementation. The sustainable development goals, in their final form, will require United Nations entities to support Member States in monitoring and reviewing the implementation process and ensuring that accountability mechanisms are in place to achieve targets.

38. Other milestones are also shaping the direction of the United Nations system's future, including the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development. All of these processes and milestones provide an opportunity to strengthen gender mainstreaming and to ensure that gender equality, women's human rights and women's empowerment feature prominently in the United Nations system's support for development, human rights and peace and security.

39. The following section, drawing on the review of the available annual reports of resident coordinators for 2014, the annual reports of UN-Women country teams/offices for 2014 and other secondary sources of information, places special emphasis on assessing progress in mainstreaming gender at the country level, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

A. Alignment of gender equality programming with national priorities across sectors in all legislation, policies and programmes

40. Better integration, coherence and coordination of international development inputs and their harmonization with national government frameworks have long been concerns of the development community. The principles of a programme approach apply to the integration of gender perspectives into country responses. For gender-integrated approaches operating within development programming, additional measures targeted towards women's rights or marginalized groups of women and men are necessary in order to achieve real empowerment.

41. An essential lesson highlighted in the annual coordinator reports of resident coordinators for 2014 is that alignment with national priorities can be achieved by building strategic partnerships with key players in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. In 2014, the office of UN-Women in Egypt, in partnership with the Post-2015 Coalition and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), hosted a 10-woman delegation from the Arab region to brief international policymakers, Governments, academics, donors and the media on successes and lessons learned in implementing key international standards, influencing policies and raising awareness of national priorities.

42. In South Africa, the United Nations country team provided support to a national gender summit held to provide a platform for critical debate on the attainment of gender equality as the country celebrated 20 years of democracy. In

addition to achieving a coordinated voice for the United Nations system in gender equality, the summit served as an important resource for the country as it provided critical analysis on the status of gender equality by taking stock of gender equality gains while critically assessing persistent shortcomings and gaps.

43. Discussion on the sustainable development goals has been at the forefront of the work of United Nations country team with policymakers and civil society. The annual reports of resident coordinators stressed the role that United Nations country teams played in facilitating dialogue on the post-2015 consultations and partnerships, including with civil society organizations, women's and social movements, the media and private sector representatives. For example, the office of UN-Women in Indonesia provided technical assistance to the Government in preparing the country report for the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and facilitated participation of the Government and NGOs at the regional conference. UN-Women played a key role in negotiating with the Government and facilitating civil society organization advocacy on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

B. Coordination mechanisms at the country level

44. Inter-agency mechanisms at the country level play a key role in ensuring United Nations coherence and joint positions and actions on gender equality.

45. The standard operating procedures for the second generation of "Delivering as one" countries are firmly anchored in the shared values, norms and standards of the United Nations system and in the common delivery of results, including on cross-cutting issues such as human rights and gender equality. United Nations country teams have an opportunity to use coordination mechanisms within the standard operating procedures, such as the joint results groups, to enhance coherence and the mainstreaming of gender into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework/One Programme.

46. The annual reports of resident coordinators for 2014 stressed joint programming initiatives in different thematic areas aimed at promoting explicit gender analysis and programming guidance in the terms of reference, the sustained contribution of dedicated gender experts, the investment of substantial resources in both gender-targeted and gender-integrated programmes in a wide range of countries, and accountability mechanisms to ensure that guidelines for gender inclusion are implemented. For example, in Mexico, UN-Women carried out several bilateral inter-agency initiatives for joint advocacy in key priority areas. Specifically, UN-Women joined forces with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to address the situation of women's human rights defenders and indigenous women's rights and to monitor compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote the recognition of domestic work and the ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189); with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund regarding the reduction of adolescent pregnancy; and with UNFPA and OHCHR to promote the incorporation of reproductive rights into legal reforms. UN-Women also coordinates the Interagency Gender Working Group, formally composed of 15 agencies.

47. In addition, global advocacy campaigns, such as "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", have spurred greater engagement by other United Nations entities, including within United Nations country teams, to strengthen coherence, coordination and advocacy across United Nations system entities and across countries.

48. The gender theme groups play an important role in convening representatives of United Nations entities working on gender at the country level, which leads to team building with national partners, to influence the development agenda from a gender equality perspective. In 2014, the annual reports of resident coordinators recognized the role of gender theme groups in providing technical support in mainstreaming programming principles, such as gender equality, and their aligning with the national priorities in that area; monitoring progress towards the mainstreaming of gender into the integrated annual workplans and United Nations Development Assistance Framework outcomes; supporting capacity-building for Government institutions in relation to national gender equality priorities; and promoting the inclusion of gender equality networks in planning and programme implementation.

49. For example, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Nations, through its human rights and gender team group, jointly supports the Government in developing an action plan for addressing the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its concluding observations on the country's combined fourth and fifth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/MKD/CO/4-5). This effort resulted in the recommendations having been debated by representatives of the Government's intersectoral advisory group on gender equality. Also, on the basis of inputs from all relevant ministries, the Government's first action plan in response to recommendations by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was designed, then discussed at a public hearing organized by the parliamentary commission for equal opportunities between women and men, and is expected to be adopted by the Government in early 2015. In Mexico, a gender theme group is implementing a self-assessment survey for all United Nations staff working in the country to establish a clear baseline of the general knowledge and capacities of country staff, in order to guide the capacity-building efforts to be implemented by the gender theme group and inform the United Nations country team on the state-of-the-art.

50. Through its presence in "Delivering as one" countries, UN-Women promotes accountability and strategic advocacy and communicates with one voice on gender equality issues within the United Nations country teams. For example, in Nepal, UN-Women has been able to leverage its consistent commitment to joint programming in order to respond better to the changing funding environment. The country's new development cooperation policy, adopted in June 2014, introduced many changes in development cooperation funding. UN-Women has invested resources and time in enhancing the competence of staff on results-based management and programme essentials. Senior management colleagues have often stepped in to steer the joint programme discussions and negotiations. UN-Women has also consistently leveraged the convening role of resident coordinator to advance joint initiatives.

51. In the humanitarian sector, there have also been efforts to mainstream gender through inter-agency coordinated response programmes in a number of crisis-

affected countries. The United Nations country team in Sierra Leone launched its Ebola gender mainstreaming strategy in relation to the response to Ebola in October. Similarly, the United Nations country team in Liberia has approved a gender strategy in relation to the response to Ebola, which calls for women's participation in the response to Ebola response, better collection and use of sex-disaggregated data, and re-establishing trust in public health services.

52. During the reporting period, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, through its gender in humanitarian action reference group, published gender alerts on the developing crises in Iraq, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and the countries affected by Ebola. The gender alerts highlight the key gender equality issues relating to specific humanitarian crises and are disseminated as guidance notes for all humanitarian stakeholders, including the in-country official United Nations coordinated humanitarian system.

53. During the reporting period, the Gender Standby Capacity project provided gender equality capacity as part of humanitarian activities to the humanitarian system coordinated by the United Nations at the global cluster level and in 11 crisis-affected countries. While being hosted by a variety of United Nations entities, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, gender-advisers offer guidance to the cluster system, the humanitarian coordinator and humanitarian coordination team, as well as to individual implementing agencies, on how best to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are adequately integrated into the planning and implementation of humanitarian response, preparedness and transition to recovery.

C. Greater accountability in the work of United Nations country teams on gender equality

54. An indispensable component of the United Nations system being fit for purpose is to ensure that the system is accountable in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Action Plan has built the foundation for this. At the country level, UN-Women has continued to promote a two-track approach to gender mainstreaming in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, striving for both dedicated results at the outcome level as well as mainstreaming gender through other priority result areas, as in the case of Afghanistan. Also, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the annual review report of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2014, completed in May 2014, addresses gender issues in most of the report. Most of the issues dealt with in that country were related to sexual violence in conflict situations. The midterm review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework is planned for mid-2015 and UN-Women will be the co-lead for the pillar on governance. To ensure effective gender mainstreaming in the midterm review process, the gender team of the "One United Nations" initiative has been organized to address all the gender issues in a systematic manner.

55. The strategic use of country-level accountability mechanisms (such as the gender scorecard) has resulted in greater focus on inequalities in the work of United Nations country teams. For example, in Cambodia,, the results of the gender scorecard contributed to the prioritization exercise within the United Nations

country team and with partners, resulting in the inclusion of the outcome-level gender results within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. In late 2014, UN-Women initiated, within the context of the United Nations Development Group, a second global review of the use the gender scorecard by United Nations country teams. The review will provide important information on the performance of United Nations country teams in various accountability dimensions and will inform the updating and upgrading of country-level accountability mechanisms for gender equality, including through closer alignment with the Action Plan.

56. In order to effectively coordinate gender equality and women's empowerment within the United Nations system, the United Nations country team in Somalia conducted a gender scorecard exercise to assess the strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement with regard to the extent to which gender equality and women's empowerment are mainstreamed throughout its activities. Completion of the gender scorecard led to recommendations that the gender theme group provide policy advisory support and guidance to the United Nations country team, that the gender strategy of the country team be finalized, that the mainstreaming of gender into joint programmes be strengthened and systematized, that gender commitments be strengthened through partnerships and that, as an internal measure for the country team, a gender-proactive culture needed to be cultivated.

D. Human and financial resources for gender equality programming

57. As called for by the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/226, the strategic priorities of the United Nations Development Group for 2013-2016 are such that the United Nations country teams, together with Member States, should promote joint funding approaches, including through better budgetary planning, common budgetary frameworks, strengthening and rationalizing joint funding and resource mobilization mechanisms, as well as through supporting the extension of these joint funding approaches for advancing "Delivering as one" initiative and translating good practices on cross-cutting issues, including gender equality, into instruments designed to support implementation. There is an urgent need, however, for committing predictable and substantial funding to all sectors and themes, so as to counter the ongoing challenges of understaffing and underfunding.

58. For example, office of UN-Women in Albania reported resource mobilization efforts through 2014 focused primarily on securing extended support from Sweden via the One United Nations Coherence Fund, with $534,000 secured as the first tranche of three from Sweden for the period 2014 to 2016. The ability of UN-Women to secure further funds in future tranches will strongly depend on delivery. In 2014, the UN-Women programme office in Tajikistan considerably expanded the portfolio of women's economic empowerment project and started work in 12 districts (versus three districts in 2013). However, the programme expansion was not supported by an increase in human resources. This has placed significant workload pressure on all staff members. Donors providing cost-sharing funding for UN-Women projects tend to envisage project staff and administrative costs as being covered by UN-Women.

59. United Nations entities continue to invest in increasing their capacity to ensure the mainstreaming of gender into their programmes of work and operational

activities by tailoring internal expertise, strengthening coordination and synergies and maximizing resources. For example, UN-Women supported ILO in Cabo Verde by promoting a gender approach in the proposal to integrate decent work in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and supported the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the promotion of gender and corporate social responsibility. As it provided a very complete portrait of the gender profile of Cabo Verde, the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was widely disseminated among United Nations country teams.

60. The resident coordinator system continues to be the entry point for UN-Women to coordinate gender responsive operational activities. In its role as a United Nations country team gender adviser, UN-Women contributes to the provision of technical advice to different agencies in several processes, provides technical support to United Nations country teams on gender mainstreaming in programme areas and on building national capacities, increases the visibility of UN-Women within the United Nations country team and at country level, and supports the fielding of gender advisers within the offices of resident coordinators in countries where UN-Women does not have a full-fledged country office. For example, responding to a request from women's organizations, the office of UN-Women in Colombia, in close collaboration with the resident coordinator's office and in coordination with 11 United Nations organizations in the country, convened a national summit on women and peace to provide a forum for input from women into the ongoing peace process. The summit convened nearly 500 women from all over Colombia, who put forth over 1,000 proposals on each point of the peace negotiation agenda, specifically demanding that the peace negotiators not rest until they had reached a peace agreement and that women be present at the peace negotiation table. One month after the summit, the Government appointed two women to its negotiating team in Havana, raising women's representation at the peace talks to 40 per cent of the Government's delegation.

E. Capacity development

61. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, called for the use of gender expertise within the United Nations system to assist in the preparation process of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other development programming frameworks, thereby ensuring that gender dimensions are systematically addressed, and requested an increase in the investment in and focus on outcomes and outputs relating to gender equality in United Nations development framework programmes.

62. To address the resolution, UN-Women produced a guidance note on mainstreaming gender into development programming to help bridge gaps between global norms and actual implementation in policymaking and programming at the country level. The guidance note of the United Nations Development Group on gender equality markers, which was developed under the leadership of UN-Women, endorsed by the United Nations Development Group and transmitted to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, helps institute gender markers across the United Nations system to make it possible not only to account for and monitor financial allocations to gender equality and women's empowerment

but also to motivate organizations and to produce comparable data. In order to provide expertise and knowledge to United Nations country teams, UN-Women led the development of a resource book of the United Nations Development Group *on mainstreaming gender in United Nations common programming at the country level*, which supports prioritizing and mainstreaming gender equality issues in United Nations common programming processes at the country level. The resource book is intended as a practical tool, based on existing guidance combined with practical experience, and as a resource for gender advocates and those responsible for mainstreaming gender into United Nations common programming processes at the country level. In addition, "I Know Gender" e-course has been made available to all United Nations entities. The course will be complemented by additional mandatory satellite modules.

63. Knowledge and technical expertise to support the work of United Nations country teams has proved to be critical to further strengthening and sustaining their efforts on gender mainstreaming, as confirmed by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. UN-Women led the establishment of the United Nations Development Group gender experts roster, with a pool of 33 United Nations experts trained to support resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to better address gender equality in the various phases of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework/One Programme (i.e. road mapping, country analysis, strategic planning and monitoring and evaluation). With approximately 40 countries rolling out new United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in 2015, sustaining the availability of United Nations expertise on gender equality to United Nations country teams and their partners will be a key part of the coordination role of UN-Women.

F. Comparable data disaggregated by sex and age

64. Working with partners, UN-Women has continue to emphasize the importance of gender statistics. The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality initiative, implemented by UN-Women, the Statistics Division of the Secretariat and other partners, has continued to compile gender indicators on health, education and employment. Working with the World Bank and the Bureau of Statistics of Uganda, a methodological experiment on measuring asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective was initiated and tested in order to contribute to the development of internationally accepted standards for such measurements. The list of pilot countries was finalized in 2014 and countries will begin collecting data in 2015. UN-Women has worked with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to improve the availability and collection of gender statistics globally and took part in the expert group's eighth annual meeting and the Fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, both of which took place in Mexico, in November 2014.

65. In Ukraine, UN-Women provided expert support to the monitoring missions of the OHCHR, of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the mission of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. UN-Women shared knowledge, gender-sensitive statistics and evidence from civil society organizations, among other data. In order to respond to new challenges, four local gender experts, identified and recruited by UN-Women, provided support in assessing recovery and peacebuilding in eastern Ukraine from a gender perspective. They assessed the differing impact of military conflict on women's and men's lives

and developed recommendations for supporting infrastructure, social services, economic recovery and social resilience.

66. In addition, a minimum set of 52 gender indicators, developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, is being used as a basic reference for the development of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and should be used whenever possible given that key United Nations agencies have been tasked for collecting such data. The indicators have been supplemented by a set of nine core indicators for measuring violence against women. The main benefits of harmonized indicators include having a platform for unifying various reports, providing guidance for Governments, the United Nations system, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, contributing to increasing efficiency and effectiveness of Governments, contributing to inter-agency coordination and collaboration, assisting in the coordination between the national and local levels, guiding policymakers in budgeting and in viewing international obligations in conjunction with national priorities.

IV. Conclusions and remaining challenges

67. A confluence of intergovernmental processes and milestones is shaping the direction of the future of the United Nations system. In the area of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, the confluence provides opportunities to accelerate implementation and to ensure that gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment feature prominently in a new development agenda.

68. In moving forward, the United Nations system must ensure that it is fit for purpose to support Member States in the implementation of a gender-responsive agenda in the post-2015 era. Gender mainstreaming remains a primary strategy for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, yet sustained efforts are needed to ensure that it effectively yields development results for women and girls worldwide.

69. Experiences and lessons learned in recent years since the adoption the Economic and Social Council of its agreed conclusions on gender mainstreaming (see A/52/3/Rev.1, chap. IV, secy. A) and the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, as well as the results derived from the implementation of the Action Plan, should guide future work on gender mainstreaming and be the basis for ensuring that the United Nations system plays a transformative role in the full implementation of the post-2015 development framework.

70. The United Nations system must capitalize on the findings of the latest report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review , according to which gender is the area where United Nations system support was most appreciated by Member States.

71. The Action Plan has proved to be an innovative approach with demonstrable and measurable results in a short timespan. The experience over the past three years illustrates that with a dedicated, pioneering and participatory approach to coordination, as led by UN-Women, a system-wide accountability framework can catalyse positive change with the desired outcomes across the United Nations system.

72. The Action Plan has facilitated more effective engagement within and across entities and revitalized a system-wide network that promotes leadership, coherence and dynamic action. It has defined, monitored and driven progress towards a common set of standards and served as a model for accountability and collective action, in no small measure thanks to the abiding support of United Nations entities at multiple levels. The scope, simplicity and clarity of its methods and the metrics it introduces have been replicated by other groups (e.g., in entities working to promote the rights of youth and indigenous peoples). Furthermore, its uniform and harmonized methodology yields a baseline against which to measure progress, stimulating the analytic and evidence-based advocacy that is essential to sustainability.

73. At the country level, United Nations country teams are making progress in mainstreaming gender in common programming processes, from country analysis, to planning, monitoring and evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. Yet there are still areas in which improvement is needed.

74. Strengthening the mandate of UN-Women, in coordination within United Nations country teams and at regional levels, to enhance gender mainstreaming within the system, as well as developing and sharing user-friendly tools and providing support to United Nations country teams, have proved effective strategies to improve gender mainstreaming. The wider acknowledgment of the mandate of UN-Women within the United Nations system has contributed to increased requests for support to promote gender equality through guidance and advice. The lack of human resources specialized in critical programme areas, however, has often negatively impacted programme results.

75. Reporting offices stressed that early engagement in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework development processes generates better results. Joint programmes, coordinated delivery and implementation mechanisms within the United Nations system contribute to better gender mainstreaming in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and, in turn, to effectiveness in achieving gender equality goals at the country level. Cabo Verde, a "Delivering as one" country, was singled out by a review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework as a country that showcased evidence of such effective inter-agency collaboration. However, devoting greater attention to strategic planning and monitoring, including technical support to implementing partners, remains a challenge.

76. It is important to ensure national ownership through continued stakeholder engagement and the embedding of accountability into local institutions. The participatory tools used in the implementation of gender programme work have contributed to the enhancement of collaboration and partnerships among key stakeholders and the implementing agencies of the United Nations, which has led to the empowerment and commitment of local partners. It is important to use community and civil society mobilization to strengthen grass-roots voice and action and to support local communities in defining locally owned and managed development objectives.

77. Resource mobilization remains a significant challenge. Fulfilling gender equality commitments in the post-2015 context will require robust and adequate financing. Commitments of predictable and substantial funding for large-scale gender equality programming across sectors and themes continues to be stressed as

critical to countering the ongoing challenge of understaffing and underfunding across gender equality work in the United Nations system. Resident coordinators stress that gender-responsive interventions require dedicated financial resources, including through joint resource mobilization.

78. There is still a need to further improve monitoring and data collection methods with a view to enhancing the United Nations system's evidence-based analytical programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its operational activities for development.

V. Recommendations

79. The United Nations system has a strong role to play in supporting the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action through the pursuit of systematic gender mainstreaming, including in the post-2015 context. The Economic and Social Council may wish to request the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies and funds and programmes, to:

(a) Redouble efforts to implement the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to ensure full compliance with its performance standards by all entities of the United Nations system;

(b) Intensify investments to address critical areas of the Action Plan, including the areas of policy development, resource tracking and allocation, the equal representation of women, capacity development and assessment, peer reviews and gender-responsive auditing;

(c) Continue to align gender equality programming with national priorities across sectors, including by supporting capacity-building for Government institutions in relation to national gender equality priorities, building strategic partnerships and integrating gender equality networks into planning and programme implementation;

(d) Further enhance technical expertise in gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system to assist the preparation and implementation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other development programme frameworks, ensuring that gender dimensions are systematically addressed;

(e) Leverage the leadership and convening role of resident coordinators to address gender equality as an integral part of the work of United Nations country teams, including through joint initiatives and strengthened coordination of gender-responsive operational activities across sectors;

(f) Enhance the competence of staff in results-based management and programming;

(g) Promote strategic advocacy and coherent communications on gender equality issues within United Nations country teams;

(h) Continue to work closely with humanitarian coordinators to integrate gender equality into all facets of humanitarian action and ensure the human rights of women, girls, men and boys are equally promoted and protected, with equitable access to services;

(i) Substantially increase resources to deliver results, especially under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including through better budgetary planning, common budgetary frameworks and strengthening and rationalizing joint funding mechanisms and joint resource mobilization efforts, as well as strengthening the predictability and sustainability of funding, broadening the donor base and increasing the flexibility of non-core resources;

(j) Continue to develop and enhance standards and methodologies, for use at the national and international levels, to improve the collection and use of data and statistics disaggregated by sex and age to improve guidance to country programming;

(k) Support the application of a gender perspective in the preparation of organization-wide and country-level documents, such as strategic, programmatic and results-based frameworks and evaluations, and continue to promote more coherent, accurate and effective monitoring and reporting on gender equality progress, impact and common indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(l) Continue to promote the institutionalization of robust accountability systems, with a focus on assessing gender mainstreaming, including at the level of United Nations country teams, by capitalizing on the design and implementation experience of the Action Plan, while both expanding and drawing on assets and resources instituted to support such implementation;

(m) Facilitate complementarity among accountability instruments at the global and country levels;

(n) Strive for both dedicated outcome level results and the mainstreaming of gender equality considerations through other priority result areas and results;

(o) Ensure prioritization and funding for meeting gender-related targets across the post-2015 development framework.